

Steamshovel Press



"...a tile in a mosaic of mania I can't quite make out."— *Small Press Review*
 "...bright minds on hot trails writing quickly to get it down..."— *Puck*
 "Utterly chilling."— *Factsheet Five*



**JFK: Thirty Years Gone:
 The High & The Mighty:
 JFK, MPM, LSD & The
 CIA part 3**

**SHERMAN SKOLNICK
 WHERE IS LOU
 WELCH?**

**DR. ALAN CANTWELL:
 QUEER BLOOD
 CRYPTO WARS
 INSLAW-WHITEWATER
 CONNECTION**

**ED LANSDALE IN
 DEALEY PLAZA?**



**ALSO:
 Biosphere2
 Jack
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 Files
 John
 Mack's UFO
 Abductees**



SP 11

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The High and The Mighty:

JFK, MPM, LSD and the CIA

(Part Three)

BY G. J. KRUPPEY

5. To the Shores of TRIPoli...

In the sort of weird coincidence that acid heads are more apt to see as synchronicity, it may be that Lee Harvey Oswald, the officially designated lone nut assassin of President Kennedy, also knew the technicolor sensorama of LSD as well as the man he allegedly shot.

In September 1957, an eighteen year old US Marine, PFC Lee Harvey Oswald, arrived at the Alsugi Naval Air Base south of Tokyo for his first assignment as a radar operator. Although he enlisted less than a year before, he already had a security clearance. Alsugi was no ordinary air base: it was from here that the top secret U-2 spy plane flights took off to conduct their high altitude surveillance of military and industrial targets in both China and the Soviet Union (87). But there was something else hidden at Alsugi besides the U-2 plane, that other something was a group of buildings identified only as the Joint Technical Advisory Group, but in reality the CIA's Far East base of operations, where, among other things, the MK-ULTRA program testing of LSD was said to have been conducted. (88) The drug was used as both an interrogation device on captured enemy agents, and, experimentally, as a training device for budding agents who were to be familiarized with the drug's effects in case of capture by the enemy; the idea being that if a captured US gent was slipped some acid by his captors, he would know what was happening to him and be able to resist freaking out and spilling his guts to his interrogators.

In a 1983 *Rolling Stone* story, an anonymous Marine who was based at Alsugi during the same era and in the same unit as Oswald recounted how CIA agents attempting to recruit him, bought him drinks (and whores) while he was on leave, and apiked his refreshments with all manner of mind-bending drugs to see how well he could hold up under pressure. Besides LSD, he was given mescaline, amphetamines, depressants, and sodium pentathol. (89) It is highly unlikely that he was the only leatherneck so favored, and highly possible that Oswald was the recipient of similar mental strip mining.

Oswald's entire career in the Marine Corps was a magnet for weird events. He joined the Marines only a few days after turning seventeen in October 1956, and spent the last two months of that year in basic training,

where he distinguished himself in failing to qualify as a marksman with the rifle. In fact, Oswald, the man who the Warren Commission would later claim managed to pull off the three luckiest shots in history, one of which managed to defy all the laws of gravity (although I have yet to hear of a reputable volume on physics which has yet acknowledged the fact), was such a bad shot, his fellow jarheads pegged him with the contemptuous nickname "shitbird". Although he did finally make marksman grade by December (but only by two points), he failed to duplicate his earlier effort when taking his last marksmanship test before leaving the Corps. (90)

In January 1957, after completing basic, Oswald took advanced training at Camp Pendleton, and after completing that, was sent in March to the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Jacksonville, Florida where he was trained to be a radar air controller. Oswald received a "confidential" security clearance to enable him to do the job, which is odd when it is considered that by this period, his outspoken pro-communist views were already notorious. (91)

After graduating Jacksonville in May, he went to Kessler AFB, Mississippi, where he graduated seventh in

YET IN OSWALD'S CASE, HIS MEDICAL RECORD ON HIS TREATMENT FOR THE COMPLAINT READ "URETHRITIS, ACUTE, DUE TO GONOCOCCUS", AND CLAIMS ITS ORIGIN AS "IN LINE OF DUTY, NOT DUE TO OWN MISCONDUCT."

a class of fifty in Aircraft Control and Warning Operations and received a Military Occupational Specialty rating as an Aviation Electronics Operator. His next stop was the USMC Air Station in El Toro, California, and from there, his unit was shipped to Japan in August, to Alsugi.

It was in Japan that the strangeness in Oswald's career began to intensify. He was observed taking photos of the base, and it was noticed that he paid specially close attention to lectures dealing with classified matters. But despite this eagerness to know things, and his communist posturing, none of Oswald's officers appeared to be overtly concerned with him as a possible security breach. (92)

On leave, Oswald became an habitué of a Tokyo nightclub called the Queen Bee, an exclusive joint that catered to officers. A typical night there could amount to a hundred dollars or more, certainly more money than a lowly, poorly-paid private like Oswald could afford. Yet Oswald was known to have kept company with one of the "hostesses" there, a Japanese woman who was possibly a Russian spy. The Queen Bee was a suspected



THIS SEQUENCE SHOWS MARY PINCHOT MEYER
AND JFK DEPLANING FOR A VISIT TO
PENNSYLVANIA IN SEPTEMBER, 1963.

espionage den filled with alluring Mata Haria. Oswald may have been only indulging himself in the sort of intriguing atmosphere that filled the spy fiction he loved, and perhaps even willing to spend the huge amounts of money needed to soak up the atmosphere. But where did he get the money for it? Throughout most of his life, Oswald was known to be flat broke or close to it, and he was, perhaps for that reason, usually tight-fisted with what little he had. It's hard to believe that he was willing to waste money on such fantasies, at least more than once.

Whatever Oswald was doing at the Queen Bee, it

couldn't have been too onerous a task, although the result of it was: in the service of his country, Private First Class Lee Harvey Oswald contracted a case of gonorrhea. (93) However, this was no laughing matter for Oswald or any other Marine: in addition to the pain and discomfort of the disease itself, the Marines punished men who came down with venereal diseases. Yet in Oswald's case, his medical record on his treatment for the complaint read "urethritis, acute, due to gonococcus", and claims its origin as "in line of duty, not due to own misconduct." (94) So how does a Marine catch VD "in the line on duty", unless he's banging some prostitute as part of an intelligence cover, or perhaps as the target of the assignment? Any other option boggles the mind.

In October 1957, Oswald, perhaps in an attempt to get out of being transferred with the rest of his unit to the Philippines—maybe because he didn't want to leave his Japanese girlfriend behind, maybe because he was instructed to do so—shot himself in the arm with a .22 caliber derringer (although two witnesses claimed that he was uninjured). (95) Oswald claimed that it was an accident that occurred when the gun fell out of his locker as he was cleaning it out. Oswald was treated for three weeks in the hospital, an unusually long time for such a minor wound it would seem (if there really was a wound). Whatever the truth of the situation, Oswald returned from the hospital in enough time to ship out for Taiwan with the rest of his unit in November of that year.

Upon his return to Aisugi, Oswald was court-martialed for possession of an illegal, unregistered weapon (he had purchased the derringer through a stateside mail-order house, not the last time this method of procurement would give him cause for grief), fined and sentenced to twenty days at hard labor. Although the sentence was suspended, Oswald soon ended up in trouble again, after picking a fight with a sergeant he held responsible for saddling him with too much KP duty. Oswald first tried to pick a fight with him at an enlisted men's club, then later again in a local nightclub when he poured a drink over his head. (96) Oswald was court-martialed again and fined, and sentenced to twenty-eight days in the brig, plus his previously suspended sentence was reversed and added to his new sentence (he actually only served 45 days total). However, only one other Marine who was also in jail at that time later claimed to have seen him in the brig, and he reported that Oswald was in civilian clothes. (97)

The implication is that during the time Oswald was supposedly recuperating from an accidentally self-inflicted wound in the hospital, and then serving time in the brig for attacking a non-commissioned officer, he was actually off on some intelligence assignment, and the incidents merely staged as excuses to get him out of the sight of his fellow Marines and away from the base without arousing suspicions as to his whereabouts. When seen in conjunction with Oswald's later crash course in the Russian language (from military tutors at the Army's Monterey, California School of Languages,

although Oswald played it as if he were learning it from how-to books and language records) (98) and subscription to Russian language periodicals [which upset at least one of his superior officers], and intensified efforts to be seen as a communist stateside at El Toro Marine Air Base. It is clear that Oswald [or "Oswaldovich", as he was dubbed] was developing a cover persona as a disaffected, pro-communist misfit, bitter at his treatment from the capitalist military, and a Marxist idealist, enthusiastic if not fanatic to further the proletarian revolution.

If Oswald was given acid as part of his undercover training, it might explain another strange incident that happened while Oswald was with his unit on Taiwan during a period when a conflict between the nationalist Chinese of that island and the mainland communist Chinese seemed imminent. One night while Oswald was on guard duty, gunfire was heard by the officer of the guard, who investigated and found Oswald on the ground, shaking, crying, and raving about men lurking in the trees who he fired upon when they failed to respond to his challenge. (99)

Oswald may have been faking a nervous breakdown as a ploy to get out of guard duty [he admitted to the officer that he couldn't hack it], for whatever reason, or possibly he fell victim to trigger-happy paranoia. But if he was given LSD prior to this occurrence, it could easily be seen as a flashback, those inconvenient, unscheduled psychedelic reruns that would become so infamous about a decade later in the heyday of LSD, long after both Oswald and Kennedy were dead.

But if Oswald intended this incident to relieve him of guard duty, it worked. He was sent back to Atsugi alone by plane for "medical treatment". It was prior to this that he was diagnosed for gonorrhea [September 16, 1958], yet he is flown back to Atsugi on October 5 for treatment. How important could treatment for a minor case of VD be that it would warrant such privileged handling? Was his guard duty freak out then due to LSD after-effects? Was he sent back to Atsugi for emergency therapy, or possibly a debriefing? Whether or not Oswald was given LSD during his stint in the Corps as part of his espionage training, he was apparently intrigued enough by the drug to seek information on its legal status only a few months before his date with infamy and death.

One day in the summer of 1963, New Orleans Assistant District Attorney Edward G. Gillin received a visit from a strangely-acting young man. Obviously uncomfortable, he yet remained standing even when asked twice to sit down. He also kept looking down at his feet and shifting about on them. (100)

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TOO WELL THE ROLE HIS DIRE
FATE CAST HIM.

But even stranger than his actions was the business that brought him to the DA's office in the first place: he wanted to determine the legality of a certain drug he had read about. Gillin had never heard of the drug, and even later couldn't remember the name of it. In the book that the young man had read, the author claimed that, if the reader could get ahold of the drug and use it, he would be able to see into the future, which formed the book's subject matter. Gillin began to lose interest in what his visitor was saying, mainly because "he was apparently demonstrating a super-imposed indoctrination in which he had no great self-identification. He was spouting words, phrases, and clichés without true comprehension, and without personal persuasiveness..." (101)

Gillin finally determined that if any such drug existed, it was likely a narcotic to be able to produce visions or hallucinations, and hence illegal, but being uncertain, he suggested that his visitor go see the city chemist next door in the city hall.

But before he left, Gillin was able to determine the name of the book in question, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* [in which the drug in question would have been the psychedelic-like soma], and the name of his odd visitor: "I cannot recall what he stated his full name was, but I can recall that 'Oswald' was a part of it..." (102)

Was Gillin's Oswald the Oswald? The FBI, not surprisingly, disputed it, claiming that Gillin's extreme near-sightedness rendered his ability to positively identify him

as Lee Harvey Oswald as unreliable. Gillin contended that since his eyesight was so poor, he had come to rely on his hearing to identify voices, and that when he heard Oswald's voice on television the night of the assassination, he automatically recognized it, with his back to the screen from "the same speed and chatter-type experiences which I had heard in my office several months before..." (103)

Perhaps the FBI's own level of accuracy in the matter can be ascertained from their recording of the novel's title and the name of the man who wrote it: *This Great World* by "Hucksley". (104) As anyone who has read *Brave New World* can attest, there is something distinctly unnerving about an FBI agent misinterpreting the title in such a jolly manner.

Oswald was, despite being an atrocious speller and a high school drop-out, an omnivorous reader. In the Marines, he was noted for reading "Leaves of Grass" by Walt Whitman and other "good type of literature". (105) During his stay in New Orleans, he borrowed many books from the library [with David Ferrie's card, apparently], including many by Aldous Huxley. (106) On

Oswald's mysterious September 1963 trip to Mexico, the books he took with him to wife away the long, boring bus ride were all by one of two authors: Aldous Huxley and Ian Fleming. An apt duo for Lee Harvey Oswald, the psychedelic spy?

Oswald, of course, remains one of the most vilified men in history. Even many who are convinced that he was merely an innocent patsy for the true killers of Kennedy often regard him patronizingly, as a sort of pathetic chump, a hopeless loser, a real *schlemiel* who fit all too well the role his dire fate cast him. Yet, if those who knew him well remember correctly, Oswald was far from an idiot. The Marines he served with, including officers, spoke highly of his mental ability. His job of radar operator required better-than average intelligence, as did his security clearance. His mastery of the Russian language, a very difficult tongue for English speakers to learn, was so complete that Marina Prusakova thought he was a native Russian speaker when they first met. (107) George de Mohrenschildt was so impressed with Oswald's ability to speak Russian, he was convinced that he had been tutored by professionals. (108)

If Oswald was indeed an intelligence agent [as many, including this writer, are convinced he was], perhaps even a double agent, he certainly was smart enough to pull it off, perhaps he even did too good a job in devising his cover. It may have been his convincing act as a communist crackpot or as a walking enigma, that doomed him more than anything else. To this day, his motives, even his actual identity, engenders controversy.

Perhaps the last word on Oswald came from someone who managed to know the real man, or at least more of him than anyone else: George de Mohrenschildt, the White Russian refugee (and probable intelligence agent serving multiple masters) who was Oswald's friend (and probable CIA "baby-sitter") during Oswald's early days in Fort Worth-Dallas (and an enigma in his own right). Years after Oswald's death (and shortly before his own suspect "suicide"), the "Baron" had this to say about his one-time friend: "No matter what they say, Lee Harvey Oswald was a delightful guy. They make him out to be a moron, but he was smart as hell. Ahead of his time, really. A kind of hippie of those days...And I will tell you this—I am sure he did not shoot the president." (109)

So, Lee Harvey Oswald, "a kind of hippie of those days" and "ahead of his time"...what could that mean? What was Oswald doing that would earn him such a description but dabbling in psychedelic drugs, making him truly ahead of his time? If Oswald had been given a taste of LSD in the Marines, perhaps he wanted to taste it again, especially after reading Huxley. Then why wouldn't he attempt to find out if he could secure some legally by inquiring about it from a District Attorney?

SHE TOLD LEARY:
"THEY COULDN'T CONTROL HIM ANY MORE.
HE WAS CHANGING TOO FAST. HE WAS LEARNING TOO MUCH...THEY'LL COVER EVERYTHING UP. I GOTTA COME SEE YOU. I'M SCARED. I'M AFRAID. BE CAREFUL."

Perhaps Oswald wasn't even sure what the mind-altering chemical he was given at Atsugi was called, he only knew that Huxley's fictional soma sounded close enough to it by the description of its effects that it might possibly be it. As stated before, while LSD was not technically illegal at this time, it was still nearly impossible for anyone not associated with an educational or research institution, or a government agency, to easily acquire it.

Oswald's discomfort may have been due to nervousness over inquiring about a possibly illegal substance from an authority figure, and his

robotic vocal delivery, seemingly lacking in conviction, could have been the result of a prepared, memorized speech. Possibly Oswald had no real expectation of getting the information or cooperation he desired, and so was only going through the motions. Or perhaps it was all a ruse, part of his cover-building assignment that he didn't understand or care to go through with. One other possibility was that he was hypnotized, or at least in a semi-hypnotic state. Again, this could have been part of an intelligence operation, or someone, David Ferrie most likely, could have hypnotized Oswald for any number of reasons, as a test to see how suggestive Oswald was, or even as a prank. [Ferrie claimed to be an expert hypnotist, and supposedly had a large private library on the subject.] Oswald could even have conceivably tried to hypnotize himself, with uneven results.

Whatever the explanation, it seems completely possible that Oswald either had been, at least once, on the magic carpet ride, or desired to take it. If he was Experienced, and Kennedy was as well, the cosmic irony of it all may have been only synchronicity, or it may have been something stranger than coincidence.

6. Death of a Mind...

The day after Kennedy was assassinated, Timothy Leary received a phone call that he said he was expecting. It was from Mary Meyer, and Leary was barely able to understand her. To him, she sounded either "drugged or stunned with grief". (110) Mary was crying, hysterical with sorrow and fear. She told Leary: "They couldn't control him any more. He was changing too fast. He was learning too much...They'll cover everything up. I gotta come see you. I'm scared. I'm afraid. Be careful." (111) Then the line went dead. Mary Meyer never came to see him and he never saw her or heard from her again. Leary tried to contact her in the following months, but as she had not given him her phone number and he couldn't locate her in any Washington area phone directory, he was unsuccessful. Finally, remembering that Mary was a Vassar alumna,

he tried to reach her through the alumni office. The secretary informed him that Mary Meyer was dead. Eventually, through friends in the press, Leary was able to find out how she died: she was murdered, shot while out taking her customary walk along the bank of the abandoned Chesapeake and Ohio canal towpath near her Georgetown home on the afternoon of October 13, 1964. She was shot, once in the chest and twice in the left temple by her assailant, a young black man who was arrested and held without bail. His probable motive was considered to be rape, robbery, or both. (112)

Leary didn't buy that simple explanation, and asked his journalist friend to dig deeper. Later, he told Leary, a friend in police intelligence confirmed that many in Washington circles didn't buy that explanation either, many believed the murder was an assassination. "Two slugs in the brain and one in the body. That's not the MO of a rapist. And a mugger isn't going to shoot a woman with no purse in her hand." (113) Leary's journalist friend indicated that it was a red hot potato in Washington, one of the biggest cover-ups in the history of that capital of cover-ups. Too many powerful people apparently had something to loose if the truth were known. He also confirmed that rumors were flying that "dope was involved." (114)

The Mary Meyer story was kept under wraps for a long time. But even those with knowledge of the affair between Mary and John Kennedy had been dropping hints ever since it began. In the case of Phillip Graham, it was more than a hint. Graham was the publisher of the Washington Post and a close friend of Kennedy's, so close they often committed adultery in each other's presence, sometimes with the same woman. (115) A diagnosed manic-depressive, by early 1963, Graham was deteriorating fast.

Phillip's wife, Katherine Meyer Graham (no relation to Mary Pinchot Meyer), whose family owned the Post, was preparing to divorce him, and that meant the end of his career at the paper. No doubt this triggered an incident at a newspaper publisher's convention in Phoenix, where Phil (who was not invited) interrupted a speech and, grabbing a microphone, went into a drunken rant about who was sleeping with whom in Washington, starting with the President and Mary Meyer, the sister-in-law of Ben Bradlee, former Post reporter and Newsweek Washington bureau chief. Apparently, Graham shocked the assembled newspaper moguls with revelations of the liaisons in Mary's art studio in the converted carriage house behind the Bradlee's home. One attendee slipped away to call Kennedy, who called Katharine Graham. Soon Phillip Graham's doctor was on his way to Arizona, and a heavily sedated Phil was on his way back home and to commitment to an exclusive, country club-like psychiatric hospital in rural Maryland. [Phil, incidentally, had been having his own affair with a woman named Robin Webb. He even lived with her openly. It was one of the reasons why Katharine began divorce proceedings against him.] (116)

On August 3, 1963, Phillip Graham, spending a

weekend with Katharine on their Virginia farm, died of a shotgun wound, apparently self-inflicted. (117) But there is still speculation his death wasn't suicide, but murder. (118)

Ben Bradlee, Mary Meyer's brother-in-law, who would eventually assume Phillip Graham's editorial duties at the Post, also dropped a few cautious references to the Kennedy-Meyer affair in his 1975 memoir, *Conversations with Kennedy*, which Katharine Graham biographer Deborah Davis called "a manual for the political use of journalists" (119). In his book, Mary Meyer is a shadowy, peripheral presence, mentioned as having attended a number of Kennedy parties and functions. Considering that Bradlee was an intimate of Kennedy's and Mary was his sister-in-law, Bradlee doesn't waste much time on describing her or reporting her conversations. His few mentions of her are more tantalizing than enlightening. Early on, he mentions her murder and relationship to both himself and to Cord Meyer, Jr. in a two-sentence footnote. (120) But he also recorded this bit of a conversation with Kennedy regarding his wife's sister: "Mary would be rough to live with", Kennedy noted, not for the first time. And I agreed, not for the first time." (121)

Bradlee also records Kennedy's visit to the seat of the Pinchot clan in Milford, Pennsylvania, where he accepted the gift to the federal government of the Gifford Pinchot mansion from Gifford Pinchot, Jr., cousin of Mary Pinchot Meyer and Tony Pinchot Bradlee. It wasn't the sort of thing that a president usually bothered with, but Kennedy used it as an excuse to "see where his friends the Pinchot girls had grown up, and especially a chance to see their mother." (122) Mary Meyer's mother was no Kennedy fan. They "liked each other, guardedly," Bradlee recalled. "But to say they were from opposite sides of the political spectrum is putting it mildly." (123)

Ruth Pinchot was a former liberal, but changed her mind during the Franklin Roosevelt administration: "She and her husband turned toward the right, hard right. Her affection for her daughters led her to be more than civil to their friend the president, but it was assumed that every time she saw him, she assuaged her guilt by doubling her contributions to Senator Barry Goldwater and to William F. Buckley's *National Review* magazine." (124) Bradlee also knew Mary's former husband as well. Although he professed that he "admired him [Cord Meyer] enormously" for his work with the American Veteran's Committee and the World Federalist Union, Bradlee and Meyer later had a falling out. "Our relations had become strained as a result of my decision to be a journalist and his derisive scorn of the people's right to know." (125) By his own admission, Bradlee refused to recommend Meyer to Kennedy for the post of ambassador to Guatemala, as was requested of him by James Angleton, a refusal that apparently embittered both Angleton and Meyer against Bradlee. (126)

Bradlee's own pious allegiance to "the people's right to know" was as suspect as Meyer's. The son of a wealthy Boston banker, Bradlee's boyhood pal was none other than the future CIA director and MK-ULTRA

mastermind Richard Helms. (127) Bradley himself served in Naval Intelligence during World War II, working with classified and coded cables in the Pacific. (128) After the war, he worked for half a year as a clerk for the American Civil Liberties Union. This incongruous employment led Deborah Davis to wonder if it may have been an intelligence assignment, rather like Cord Meyer's stints with the American Veteran's Committee and the World Federalist Union, a not unlikely prospect considering Bradley's role in cranking out propaganda for CIA distribution through the US Information Exchange, forerunner of the US Information agency, while serving in the US embassy in Paris in the early 1950s. (129)

In the late 1950s, Cord Meyer, Bradley's one-time friend and later nemesis (130), was coordinating covert operations in Europe, and he and Mary were becoming increasingly alienated. Since she didn't have a security clearance, they had little to speak of and nothing in common. (131) In fact, Meyer's CIA work was "a business she hated." (132) As noted before, Mary herself came to be regarded risk due to her extra-marital flings. (133)

Eventually, they were divorced, and Mary returned to Washington, living in the converted garage of her sister Tony and her husband Ben Bradley, and pursuing her career as an abstract artist, which was just beginning to take off when she was murdered. (134)

It would appear that Mary Meyer first met John Kennedy when she lived next door to his brother Robert in McLean, Virginia, but that their affair didn't begin until she moved in with the Bradlees, who were neighbors of the then senator from Massachusetts. (135) It was an affair so secret that even many Washington insiders, who usually knew about that stuff, were astonished to learn of it in the press years later. (136) And yet their liaisons often took place right in Mary Meyer's studio, practically in public.

The story was first leaked to the press by James Truitt, former *Newsweek* Tokyo bureau chief. It was to Truitt and his wife that Mary confided knowledge of her diary (more like a sketchbook with notations, as those who have claimed to have seen it have described it), and the request that they keep it, in the event of something happening to her, to give to her eldest son Quentin upon his twenty-first birthday. (137) That diary, later so controversial, was thought by many to have included proof of Mary's relationship with Kennedy, and perhaps references to something else best left unknown. Whatever it did contain, there were several people who went to great extremes to make sure that it did not fall into the hands of the police in the aftermath of her murder. The actual facts of Mary Meyer's murder are themselves part of the mystery. While most accounts relate that she was shot to death also claims that she was stabbed, and that she was walking her dog when attacked rather than walking alone. (138)

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NOTES:

(*Steamshovel Debris*: Notes 59-86 inadvertently were not included last issue. They document information from the preceding instalment of this series. Note also that the sub-heading "4. From the Halls of Montezuma" also was missing from last issue's instalment. Steamshovel apologizes for the errors.)

- 59) Leary, p. 47
- 60) Leary, p. 46
- 61) Lee & Shlain, pp. 82-83
- 62) Lee & Shlain, p. 84
- 63) Lee, p. 98
- 64) Lee & Shlain, pp. 115-16
- 65) *ibid*
- 66) The author recalls a punk rock magazine from the late seventies (76 or 79) which carried a small article on Hollingshead, who was apparently dispensing acid to a new generation of rock'n'roll rebels such as the Clash. Although the magazine is long lost, the article has stayed in memory since then.
- 67) Lee & Shlain, pp. 43-45
- 68) *ibid*
- 69) The title came from a line in a poem by William Blake, and gave an up-and-coming rock band its original name, later shortened to The Doors.
- 70) Lee & Shlain, pp. 46-7
- 71) *ibid*
- 72) Lee & Shlain, p. 22
- 73) Lee & Shlain, pp. 189-90
- 74) Lee & Shlain, p. 48
- 75) Lee & Shlain, p. 50
- 76) *ibid*
- 77) Lee & Shlain, p. 52
- 78) *ibid*
- 79) *ibid*
- 80) L&S, p. 198
- 81) L & S, p. 52
- 82) L & S, p. 199
- 83) L & S, 73-75
- 84) L & S, 82-88
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- 88) Russell, p. 135; Lee, et al, p. 22. Atsugi was only one of two bases in the far east where the CIA acid tests were supposed to have been conducted, the other was in Manila, the Philippines.
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- 90) Marra, p. 102
- 91) *ibid*
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- 93) Summers, pp. 116
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- 95) Summers, p. 116; Marra, p. 105
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- 98) Summers, p. 125; Murra, p. 105
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Steamshovel Press is seeking information on Mary Meyer's acid circle, as well as her murder and any subsequent cover-up for further research. Contact editor Kenn Thomas or author G. J. Krupay at *Steamshovel's* address. Confidentiality assured to those who request it.



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From Phalanstère to Biosphere

BY JIM MARTIN

What's going on in Oracle Junction, Arizona? By now, you may have heard about the hermetically sealed, glass-and-steel enclosure called Biosphere2, built in the Arizona desert near Tucson as a radical environmental experiment in total recycling. Since 1991, the 7.2 million square foot terrarium, which leaks air at a rate of 1% per year (the space shuttle leaks 300% per year) was built at a cost of \$150 million of the Bass banking family's money. It has been inhabited by two different crews of researchers who raise all their food within the Bio2 complex, recycling air, water and waste in an effort to study the feasibility of launching a similar project in the not-so-distant future on the surface of Mars. Billed as a research station, tourist attraction, and ongoing R&D center in environmentally sound science, the project has lost millions of dollars while producing little in the way of marketable new technology.

I happened to visit Biosphere2 just before the recent managerial shake-up. This spring I took a "working vacation" in the Tucson area to revisit some of the sites of Wilhelm Reich's final experiment, "Desert OROP Ea", conducted around Tucson between October, 1954 and March, 1955. Reich was under an injunction by a court order to refrain from distributing orgone accumulators and during this time he had every intention of abiding by the court's decree. The emotional plague was closing in, however, and Reich was beginning to behave like a caged animal. He had long since abandoned individual psychotherapy in favor of new pursuits in natural science, and his trip to the desert was a last-ditch effort to force the world to recognize his discoveries.

Reich's last published work, a scaring document called *Contact With Space*, is a full report on this desert expedition, undertaken with his son, Peter, his daughter, Eva (then a twenty-five year old medical doctor), and the few remaining coworkers whom Reich could press into service. His daughter didn't want to go, but Reich insisted: "The harvests are plenty, but the workers are few."

Reich had successfully used his cloudbuster, a set of hollow metal tubes that he grounded in water, to restore atmospheric pulsation and bring rains to droughty regions around his research center in Rangeley, Maine. He sought to extend this research by testing the device in some of the most arid lands in the U.S., found near Tucson, Arizona along the border with Mexico.

Contact With Space describes the long journey west, where he set up a temporary base about 8 miles north of Tucson. Reich explored the region while taking ambient

"LOVE, WORK, AND KNOWLEDGE ARE THE WELLSPRINGS OF LIFE. THEY SHOULD ALSO GOVERN IT."

-Wilhelm Reich's oft-repeated motto.

"WORK AND LOVE. THESE ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE. THEY ALWAYS HAVE BEEN; THEY ALWAYS WILL BE. I BELIEVE SIGMUND FREUD SAID THAT."

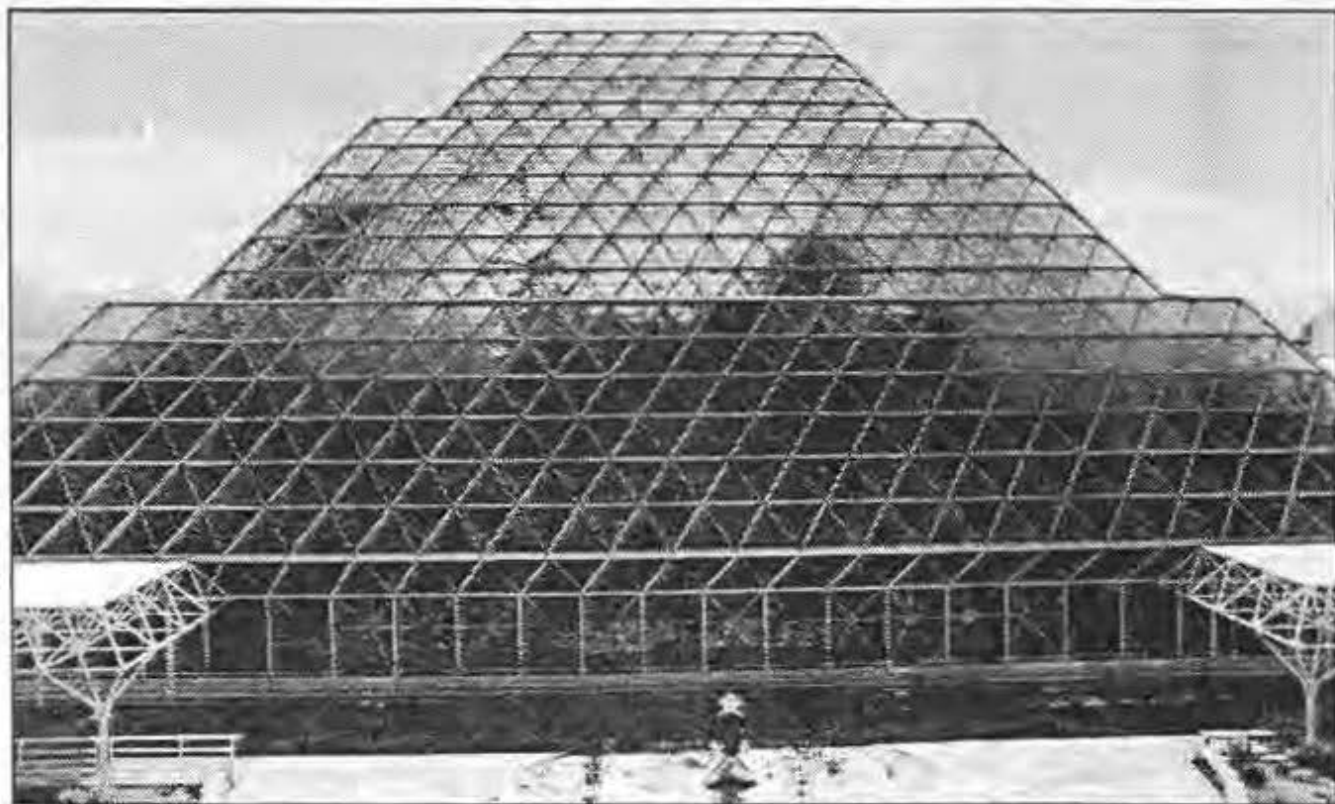
-Helen Gurley Brown, editor of *Cosmopolitan*, in an interview in *Psychology Today* (March-April 1994)

NO, HELEN, WILHELM REICH SAID THAT. *Sigh*. IT'S AS IF THE NATION'S COLLECTIVE MEMORY HAS BEEN ERASED OF ALL TRACES OF THE MAN.

radiation readings with his Geiger counter, working with the atmosphere using his cloudbuster while parrying with UFOs, which he sensed were responsible for at least some of the atmospheric stagnation in that region. The experiences he describes in his last book are too heavy with implication to do justice in a brief article, but I hope to pursue a book on Reich's final years, tentatively titled *Am I A Spaceman?*

There are many parallels between the Biosphere2 project and the "Desert OROP Ea" expedition Reich undertook 30 years ago in the very same region. Both experiments approached atmospheric research with an understanding that the Earth functions as an organic whole. Each research team assumed that the Earth's atmosphere is undergoing severe strain, and sought answers to prevent an apocalyptic ecological collapse. Interstellar travel was a key component to both experiments, with Bio2 exploring the possibility of a self-contained "biome" which could sustain a small population of humans and other life-forms in outer space. Reich has always been ridiculed for his interest in UFOs, and he and his co-workers reported seeing many in the desert around Tucson. Rather than argue for the reality of flying saucers, Reich sought to understand their propulsion system.

In many ways the Biosphere2 experiment is an embodiment of a wrong turn taken 30 years ago.



I had first heard about Bio2 in a series of glowing reports written by Kevin Kelly in *The Whole Earth Review*. Based in part on the work of J.E. Lovelock's "Gaia Hypothesis" as well as earlier work by Russian geologist Vladimir Vernadsky, who was the first to use the term "biosphere", the project intended to investigate whether a closed system, properly stocked with a variety of plant, animal and insect life, could sustain a human community in isolation from the surrounding atmosphere. Completely funded by private money, the Bio2 complex would receive funds from visitors and technological spin-offs in the areas of recycling, air and water purification, and space technology.

Bio2 was the brainchild of John Allen, one of the members of the first "biospherian" crew that entered the sphinx-like pyramid on Sept. 26th, 1991. Dr. Roy Walford, author of *The 120 Year Diet* (a reduced-calorie, high-nutrient diet which Walford found to increase the life-span of rats to the equivalent of 1.2 centuries) was another important member of that first crew.

The Psychozoic Era

Much of the material published by Synergetic Press, the publishing arm of Bio2, refers back to the work of "Academician" Vernadsky, the Russian scientist who taught with Teilhard de Chardin in Paris during the 20s. Vernadsky's intriguing theory, that the Earth's "crust" has been formed not by mineral processes, but by succeeding layers of biological detritus, seems to be the main inspiration for the Bio2 group. Vernadsky held

that the earth's geology and atmosphere cannot be separated from the process of life, and that the earth must be taken as an organic whole along with the atmosphere and ozone envelope. The earth functions as a kind of receptor of cosmic energy, said Vernadsky, and he even seems to make a distinction between solar rays and some kind of "luminous energy" on earth, much like orgone. He describes his theory as different from previous vitalist and materialist ideas about life. "Considering living matter as a unity, a planetary phenomenon, this feature called *civilized man* cannot be regarded as an accidental one. Hence we must treat with caution any idea which suggests that the present limits to life are immutable." Vernadsky wrote in *The Biosphere* (1929).

Late in his life, in 1944, Vernadsky suggested that the planet is entering a new geological era, which he called the *psychozoic era*. "The historical process is being radically changed under our very eyes. For the first time in the history of mankind the interest of the masses on the one hand, and the free thought of individuals on the other, determine the course of life of mankind and provide standards for men's ideas of justice. Mankind taken as a whole is becoming a mighty geological force. There arises the problem of the *reconstruction of the biosphere in the interests of freely thinking humanity as a single totality*. The new state of the biosphere, which we approach without our noticing it, is the *noosphere*."

This concept of the noosphere fascinates me. Like a mystical envelope of mass mind, it envelopes the Earth

and molds it. "The problem of planned, consistent activities which will aid us in mastering nature and accomplishing the correct distribution of wealth, connected with the comprehension of the unity and equality of all people, of the unity of the noosphere, is now on the agenda." Utopian, to be sure, but reminiscent of a termite nest. That Vernadsky delivered this paper, which turned out to be his last, in 1944 is an indication that Stalin had no serious disagreement with Vernadsky's ideas.

Synergetic Press literature also reinforces the idea of a yawning gulf between man and nature. Like the most misanthropic of environmental activists (like Edward Abbey and some members of groups like Earth First!), humankind is viewed as a kind of "plague species".

As I undertook my plans to visit Arizona, I noticed the news reports of a new crew entering the Bio2 and thought I'd take a look. While the project's environmental goals appeared laudable to me, I was interested more in the Utopian aspects of such a community. How did they make decisions? Kelly didn't say. The whole thing reminded me of the great French post-revolutionary thinker, Charles Fourier. Beginning in 1800, Fourier had begun a life-long blueprint and constitution of an ideal, Utopian community, which he called the "Phalanstère", based on the novel theory of "passionate attraction" on which all life turned. He envisioned a society ruled by the metaphor of harmonious musical cords. Different strokes for different folks is another way of putting it. His "unitary architecture" anticipated the Situationists' "unitary urbanism" by nearly two-hundred years, and his work was revisited frequently by sixties radicals in search of historical antecedents. The young Marx claimed Fourier as one of the first true socialists. He was a champion of sexual freedom and enemy of boring work long before these icons became common commodities in the intellectual marketplace. Fourier spent his whole life seeking a rich patron (such as the Bass family) to fund a trial "Phalanstère", which would return the investment through technological spin-offs (generated by the total engrossment Phalanstérians experienced when an entire society was set up to anticipate their desire for meaningful work, delicious food, and gratifying sexual encounter) as well as selling trinkets and mementoes to the curious visitors who would undoubtedly be drawn to the intentional community.

From Phalanstère to Biosphere

My friend Alex Hamann accompanied me on the back-road journey toward Oracle Junction from

Phoenix. Along the way, we spotted a black, unmarked helicopter hovering 30 feet above the desert in a desolate stretch, just hovering over nothing. The Bio2 complex presented itself as a sprawling neo-Bauhaus shopping mall nestled in the rolling foothills of the Catalina Mountain range. Parking our rented white Sunbird among dozens of Winnebagos, we awaited the tram to haul us uphill to the attraction. Signs warned against walking in.

After forking over the \$13.50 admission fee, we



VERNADSKY

oriented ourselves in a room with a scale model of the complex. "We ask that you take no photographs of the model, since Space Biosphere Ventures retains the copyrights. You may take pictures of the complex itself, however". Further on, in a movie theatre not unlike that at Disneyland, we "Meet The Biospherians" in a multimedia experience revealing the plucky pioneers and their project. "No public funds have been used to build Biosphere2."

At the bookstore, I found many of the original Synergetic Press books, including one by Vladimir Vernadsky (published by MIR Press in Moscow), which I bought in lieu of any real information about the origins and intentions of Bio2 presented thus far. Outside, we strolled around the massive complex, taking pictures as we walked. No Biospherians were visible through the glass pane enclosure, which was dripping with condensation on the interior like a cold sweat. I suppose I wanted to find some Biospherians, draw their attention

by tapping on the glass.

I left feeling like they were hiding something. It was too damn quiet there. They were silent, in words, writings, and multimedia on the issue of decision-making within the group.

Hostile Takeover in Utopia

No sooner had I returned from the trip when all hell broke loose at Bio2. Ed Bass, financial angel for the project, got a court order to ban John Allen, Margaret

"THE PROBLEM OF PLANNED, CONSISTENT ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL AID US IN MASTERING NATURE AND ACCOMPLISHING THE CORRECT DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, CONNECTED WITH THE COMPREHENSION OF THE UNITY AND EQUALITY OF ALL PEOPLE, OF THE UNITY OF THE NOOSPHERE, IS NOW ON THE AGENDA."

-VERNADSKY

Augustine, Mark Nelson and others in Decisions Team Inc. (DTI) who headed the management at Bio2 from the premises. On April Fools Day (and also Good Friday) federal marshals appeared, the locks were changed, the attraction closed for the day, and the whole deal was placed under the receivership of Martin Bowen, a Bass associate. In a written statement, Bass indicated he was fed up with the recalcitrance of the management team and ready to recoup his investment, although he was committed to the basic research being done at Bio2.

[While Bio2 publicity assures us "no public funds" were used in the Bio2 complex, the same cannot be said of Bass' bank holdings. Bass made most of his estimated \$2.2 billion net worth in a single deal, in which he acquired the failed American Savings & Loan in 1988 for \$350 million while the government put in \$1.7 billion to sweeten the pot. If I am reading the news reports correctly, Bass was actually paid \$1.3 billion to "buy" American. Before Bass bought American Savings, it was stripped of all bad loans in its portfolio and these liabilities were assumed by the taxpayers. These liabilities are now estimated to be \$4 billion by federal regulators, making the S & L's failure the costliest in American history at \$5.4 billion (sic). AP reports (5/21/94) that Bass is putting American up for sale. I'll buy it Ed, if I get the same deal you got!]

Next, on Easter Sunday, two members of the original crew which entered Bio2 in 1991, Abigail ("Gale") Alling and Mark Van Thillo, opened four of the five doors into Bio2's air-tight enclosure and broke five panes of glass in the "lungs" (a huge dome housing a pump which regulated the expanding and contracting air inside the enclosure). Reports indicated that the seal was broken for about 15 minutes, but my guess it was far longer than that. On Monday, Gale Alling placed calls to Bio2's new management and the press, including the AP news service, explaining her actions. She cited a deep concern for the welfare of the remaining crewmembers and said "I did not sabotage the Biosphere". Alling and Van Thillo had been suspended in the management shake-up, and had been seeking \$10,000 in back pay. "At any moment in time something could go wrong," Alling told the press. "It's like sending the shuttle up and in midstream you replace the captain and the mates."

"I've no remorse for what I've done. I've acted for the safety of the Biosphere." Alling denied the act was sabotage or revenge. Acting as "assistant vice president of Space Biosphere Ventures" she wanted to protect the seven people remaining inside.

While Alling was making these statements on Tuesday, April 5th, John Allen, the head of the team ousted by Bass, was issuing similar scary statements clear across the world in Tokyo on Wednesday. There is not now a single person left in power by Mr. Bass... who

knows why anything is being done. They have done all this without concern for the safety and well-being of the seven human beings inside Biosphere 2." Reuters also reported that Allen was "worried the project would be trivialized and turned into a Disneyland-type attraction to make money."

Vernadskyland

Indeed, To me, one of the most heartening aspects of the project was always that a Utopian community had adopted the methodology of Disney, and might serve as a model for more experimental projects that could be self-sustaining without government support. Just think of it: Cooperburg, L-Ronville, Situland... the possibilities are endless. You may think I'm being sarcastic, but I'm not. This nation was founded on cults too strange for Europe. I can honestly say that I love America, warts and all, for precisely (his reason. After Fourier's death, several communities based on his ideas appeared only here.

But who is John Allen, the main force in charge of the group of managers forced out by Ed Bass? According to sources who would rather not be identified because of safety concerns, Allen was a fixture in new-age, occultist circles in Santa Fe since the early seventies, where his wife still owns the "Synergia Ranch". Allen served as the guru for this New Mexico commune under the rubric "Institute for Ecotechnics". A British subject, Allen was a student of J. G. Bennett (author of *Meetings with Jung*) who was the major promoter for Gurdjieff until he discovered the Polynesian Muslim Pak Subid. "Ecotechnics" is a non-profit foundation operating privately owned enterprises (apparently for tax advantages), including two farms in Australia, a



GALE ALLING



The "lungs" of Bio2, which expand and contract as the air pressure inside the tank changes during the day.



Separated at birth? John Allen (above) and Mark Nelson (below)



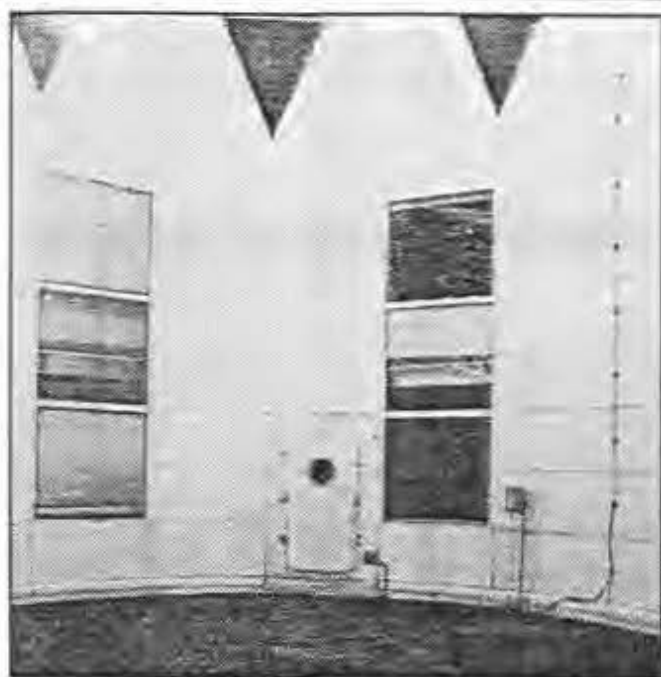
conference center in France, a gallery in London, hotels in Kaimando & Houston, along with ranches in Texas and Arizona. Started in the early 60s in New York, this secretive guru-system views itself as an evolutionary vanguard, based on the works of Gurdjieff, the Russian geologist-marxist-mystic Vernadsky, and J.G. Bennett.

Essentially, Allen's group believe the Earth is doomed, and the evolutionary forefront (Allen and his followers) have prepared to create Bio2 as a mode of transit by which they will shove off from the rest of us sleepwalkers. There is a suspicion that "Ecotechnics" group-dynamics involves the typical sex-drugs-hypnosis forms of guru manipulation. Allen attracts a "high-level" type of person: rich & bright. Gale Alling fits the bill perfectly. In fact, her mother (Gail Alling of Kennebunk, Maine) was quoted by the AP wire as saying "She's a victim of mind control... The people

who have been kicked out are members of a cult." Reportedly, one of the Bass brothers fell under Allen's sway; thus the \$150 million start-up money.

So we need to take a closer look at the striking similarities between Alling's statements of concern for the remaining Biospherians after the sabotage of Bio2's seal and John Allen similar statements issued from Tokyo within a 48-hour period. Certainly this indicates a close communication, perhaps even some discussions before the event? But it gets even stranger. The next day, Allen faxed a "rambling four-page letter to drug-culture guru Timothy Leary, asking him to distribute it on a computer network" according to the Associated Press. Although they didn't name it, this computer network is sponsored by the Whole Earth Review. "The WELL" is one I check in with regularly and it has a forum wherein e-mail and bulletin board postings can be sent to the Biospherians. Leary posted a message saying he had received the fax, and uploaded it in his "home directory" but gave no indication how to access it. After many requests to post it openly (and not just from me), Leary has not responded. It's clear from the excerpts from this fax, related in the AP article 4/15/94, that Allen may have implicated himself along with Alling's sabotage. As of this writing, Leary hasn't posted the original fax. Leary was an early convert to the Bio2 project. I suspect he knows how it would sound now.

Especially since the matter has since been settled quietly in court, with Allen and the others, save Margret Augustine, having all backed out and issued statements of support for Bio2's new management. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed. What has happened to the overwhelming concern for the Biospherians that caused Gale Alling and Mark Van Thillo to break the



MAIN AIRLOCK DOOR TO BIOSPHERE 2

seal? What's changed in the situation, now that John Allen has settled? Why would Allen choose Tim Leary as his press agent? Would you choose Leary when criminal charges were in the air? Why would Allen think WELL users would support his side in the dispute?

Returning to the original reason why I visited Tucson, it's ironic that here, in Oracle Junction, where the Biosphere2 experiment involves a controlled, manipulated environment and atmosphere, is the same place where Wilhelm Reich was doing his atmospheric experiments with the cloudbuster exactly thirty years ago. The two approaches could not be more completely opposed. Reich sought to heal the environment and prevent a catastrophe, while the Biospherians sought to privately seal off from the catastrophe while openly and cynically preparing for final lift-off, leaving us suckers behind. While Reich committed no crime, he died alone in jail; John Allen apparently is implicated in an adolescent vandalism while walking away with a pay-off and/or blackmail. Tim Leary once again has the onus of mind-control hanging over his head. Biosphere2, a sick and perverted monument to isolation, separation and evasion of the life energy continues to herd the suckers in at \$13.50 a head. Yet if I were to advertize the health benefits of the orgone accumulator and offer to sell one to you, feds would roll. The Dome of Doom prevails. ☸

Jim Martin publishes *Flatland*, a hermetically sealed, glass enclosed magazine and mail-order resource for books. See back cover for details.

Being trained never to 'uncover' a CIA man, I didn't say a word; but as soon as I could, I got a set of the pictures. I had no doubt whatsoever about his identity...the 'tramps' photo is unquestionably Lansdale...Then I got a letter from a man who was quite senior in the Pentagon and who knew Ed and me very well. (Steamshovel Debris: Fletcher Prouty declined again to name this official when contacted by Steamshovel Press.) In responding to the letter, which had nothing to do with the assassination, I slipped that single 'Tramps' photo in the envelope and asked if he had seen it. I told him about the 'Tramps' and then said do you see anything you can tell me about in the picture. I gave him no names at all.

"Immediately he replied and much to my surprise began by saying, 'That is Ed. I could tell him anywhere. What the hell was he doing there?' He went on with more and described the strange costumes of the 'police', the weapons and the rest...his details were more complete than mine...That was all I needed. That senior person is unimpeachable. I had not suggested the name. He and I knew!

"I have carefully put that letter away and never revealed its source...I made Mae B. (Brussell) and Charles S. (Spears) aware of all this years ago, and asked them to keep it confidential...

"Because I knew that was Lansdale I then knew



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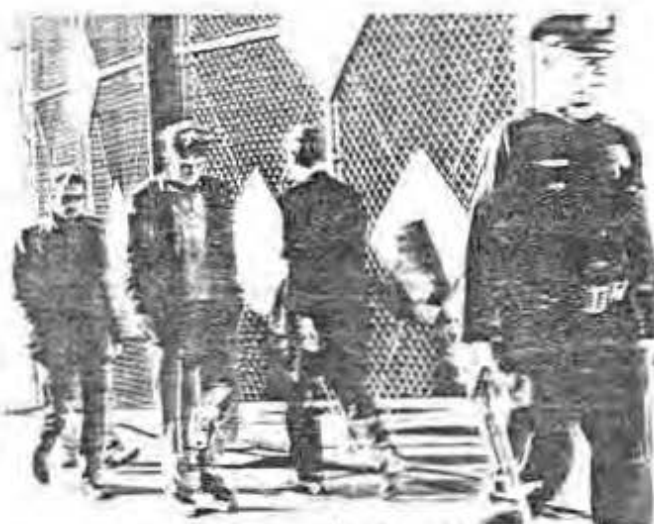
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↓ Conein?

↑ Lansdale?



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Can Anyone Verify Fletcher Prouty's ID Of Lansdale and Conein in Dealey Plaza?

BY JACK WHITE

I have always had the utmost admiration and respect for Col. L. Fletcher Prouty when it comes to integrity, patriotism, and his insider's personal knowledge of the personnel and workings of the "Secret Team" based on years of first-hand participation.

Therefore I take very seriously his identification of two persons photographed in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963, as being Ed Lansdale and Lou Conein. He knew Lansdale personally and worked closely with him over a period of years and through Lansdale he knew Conein.

As a researcher of JFK photos extremely interested in identifying persons in the pictures, I have corresponded with Col. Prouty in an attempt to develop definite proof of his allegations, and herein I will quote directly from some of his letters with his kind permission.

I sent Fletch xeroxes of the photos in question (details reproduced p.14) for his comments. He identified them as Lansdale and Conein, but volunteered no further proof than his own personal acquaintance with the two.

The photos are (1) the George Smith photo of the three tramps, which shows a man Fletch identifies as Lansdale, in a suit and wearing eyeglasses, strolling westward by the Texas School Book Depository as the tramps are loosely escorted eastward by Officers Wise and Bass; (2) the James Altgens photo, which shows a stocky man wearing a construction helmet who Fletch says is Conein, standing on Elm Street with his arms folded across his chest, looking not at the motorcade, but more toward the Dai-Tex Building; (3) the same individual as seen in Phil Willis slide number 5; and (4&5) the same man strolling westward on Elm past the Umbrella Man, as seen in two slides by Wilma Bond.

Here are direct quotations from some of Prouty's letters about his identification of these persons. (All are direct quotes, but in some cases paragraphs have been rearranged or combined with other paragraphs from a different letter for clarity or continuity, as indicated by ellipsis.)

"...the first time I saw the 'tramps' photo series, I recognized Ed Lansdale in #1, for sure. So, because I knew Ed so well and what his type of work was, and what he was best at, I knew right then, for sure, what he was there to do and how he would have done it. He was a true professional. Do you recall that he had 'retired' as an Air Force Major General on Oct. 23, 1963? Of course that was an entirely 'notional' retirement. He was never in the Air Force. He was always an agent of the CIA.

"Furthermore, this leads to the source of the decision. Ed's role would have been the script-writer and leader of the band; but he would only have been working on the orders of someone above him. Ed had many deep and important links to big business. It is easy to visualize that within his circle, which would have included Allen Dulles, among others, word was received that a decision to get rid of JFK had been made. That fact, the decision, would trigger a chain of events that would assure the death of JFK, or anyone else, anywhere in the world. These are not 'terrorists' on the streets. They are superior professionals who are on salary, highly skilled and trained, and thoroughly covered. They are never arrested. They certainly are not 'lone gunmen.' The lone gunman is always a selected 'patsy.'

"I had known Ed since 1952 in the Philippines...and throughout my service in the Far East, 1952-1954, I kept meeting him frequently in Manila and Saigon. My Air Transport Squadron flew there on regular schedules out of Tokyo and we supported his Saigon Military Mission (a 100% CIA unit).

"When he returned from Vietnam he was assigned to the Air Force Directorate of Plans where he worked for a very good friend of mine in that shop...in the Pentagon in 1957...His office was in a parallel hall just opposite mine. He was a fish out of water there, and I was a very handy old friend for him...In other words I saw him frequently...and I was one of the few persons in Plans that he could speak to easily.

"Then in about 1958 he got reassigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense in the Office of Special Operations. That is the office that takes care of CIA matters and manages the NSA. The Air Force transferred me to that office in 1960, so Ed and I were together again in the same office...I worked with him daily...in 1960-1961...I knew him well...In 1961, I was transferred, this time to the Joint Staff. I did the same work there that I had done in the Secretary's Office. In fact, because they had eliminated the Office of Special Operations, I was now head of that work for all services all over the world. Ed stayed with the Secretary doing CIA work. We still saw a lot of each other.

"I say all this to tell you I knew the guy very well. I worked with him, have visited with our wives in each others homes, have traveled with him when I was the pilot of Air Force planes, etc.

"Then one day someone showed me the 'Tramp' pictures. I think it was (Richard E.) Sprague. I recognized Lansdale immediately in the first photo.

why I had been sent to the South Pole at the time of JFK's death and what his role in the whole thing was. He was an absolute genius. He could plan the Cover Story, such as Oswald, such as Ruby, such as the Tramps, etc. That was his specialty.

"...In keeping with our work, Lansdale's and mine, I have a good idea of what he was doing in Dallas. It is a most professional and demanding type of work. He was using certain of his highly trained MONGOOSE people to perform roles in Dallas and he was orchestrating the whole thing. In such a capacity he may or may not have had a thing to do with the shooting team. They are always 'faceless', highly professional and from out of the country. He simply created the 'smoke screen' under which the professionals worked. In fact the actual smoke screen on the Grassy Knoll, the Umbrella Man, the Tramps and other such events are among the things he would have been directing. The phoney police and Secret Service men would have been his actors. Ed was very good at such things and had a world-wide reputation for it. Note: people have noted that Ed had eyeglasses on in the photo. They are more likely his ear-pieces for radio transmission. The cops are wearing normal (hearing) devices.

"After the job in Dallas, Ed would have had to work with the perpetual 'Cover Story' people so that they could keep it alive and vibrant as it is today, nearly

thirty years later. That is the most difficult part of any 'assassination.'

"...Oswald had been in the Philippines when the CIA was supporting the Indonesian rebellion against Sukarno. Ed and I were deeply involved in that. I would not be surprised to learn that he had met Oswald there. It was all CIA, not military, and Oswald was one of the selected Marines from the Atsugi unit. Perfectly normal. He might have been the only Marine Ed ever knew that well. So he 'created' a role for him. Oswald would trust Ed because he had known him before, knew that he worked for the Secretary of Defense and all that. So when asked to go to Russia for a good cause, to go to Dallas for a good cause, and to sit in that theater after Tippit and the President had been killed, for a good cause, he did so. He had no idea the President's death had been planned on him, or Tippit's. He just fell into that as a 'patsy', just as he said. He did it all for his good friend 'Major General Lansdale.'

"...It is my belief (unverified to date with other associates) that the fellow in the white hard-hat who is shown in the Altgens photo, the man almost in line with a pole and to the left of the Depository door area, with his arms folded over his chest and staring, not the President, but at the shooter in the Dal-Tex building, is Lou Conein. He, (E. Howard) Hunt and Lansdale frequently worked together on major projects and we know they were in Dallas.

"...Quite obviously there are few good pictures of Lou Conein...look in a copy of the Cecil B. Curry biography, *Edward Lansdale, The Unquiet American*, published by Houghton Mifflin 1988.

"Now I'll reveal something strange for you. Turn to the set of pictures that follows page 206. On the top of the tenth photo page you'll see a picture of a house in Saigon. On the bottom half you'll see two guys and the inscription, 'Lucien Conein and Joseph Baker, Lansdale teammates on Vietnam, relaxing.'

"So now you know who Conein is and what he looks like. Not at all! The CIA put out this book and it is full of untruths. They very cleverly found the worst picture of both these men they could find and then REVERSED the names. Conein, not a good picture, is the guy on the right holding the drink in his left hand. He's not the guy on the left of the photo.

"That's the way the CIA works. They take advantage of every detail, to their own interest. That is a poor picture of Lou. I'm going to see if I have a better one. (I should have put one in my own book). Here, I found one. In the Karnow book, *Vietnam* go to the set of photos after page 269. Then go to the fourth photopage. You'll see Conein, again not specifically located, but he is the guy right in the middle and up one step. All the others are Vietnamese. That is a much more typical shot of Conein. Now see if you agree with me that this man is the same one as in the one in the Altgens photo.

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Can we prove or disprove Prouty's claim that two of the planners of the assassination were on hand in Dallas on 11-23-63?

Jack White lives at 704 Candlewood Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76103.

Readers will remember Edward Lansdale as a Vietnam-era guerilla insurgency expert, an adviser to the Diem regime in South Vietnam and the central figure (as "Colonel Edwin Barnum Hillandale") in William Lederer and Eugene Burdick's 1958 book, *The Ugly American* (New York: Norton). Marlon Brando played Lansdale in the 1963 movie version of the book.

Not surprisingly, Lansdale's high opinion of Fletcher Prouty did not go beyond his assessment of Prouty's skills as an airman. "He was a good pilot of prop-driven aircraft," Lansdale wrote to Lt. Charles T. R. ("Bo") Bohannon, "but had such a heavy dose of paranoia about CIA when he was on my staff that I kicked him back to the Air Force." This opinion is reported in a 1988 biography of Lansdale, *Edward Lansdale The Unquiet American*, by Cecil B. Curry (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company), an official biography no doubt rightly regarded as unreliable. For instance, Prouty denies ever being on Lansdale's staff. Factual errors aside, the book also notes Lansdale's opinion that Prouty had a "whacky imagination", and in comparing him with Daniel Ellsberg of Pentagon Papers fame who did work on Lansdale's staff at one time, ostensibly noted, "I sure pick 'em, huh?"

The biography contains no reference to Prouty's assertions about the Kennedy assassination, of course. It contains no reference at all to the Kennedy assassination, another glaring factual problem. It does, however, acknowledge Prouty's charge that Lansdale worked for the CIA throughout his life. According to Curry, "While he was never anyone's lap dog...it is evident that [Lansdale] certainly shared information with the Agency when he believed it would be useful to them." In a phone conversation with Steamshovel Press, Prouty again maintained that Lansdale worked throughout his life for

the CIA using the Air Force as cover.

In his book *The Secret Team*, (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1973) Prouty suggests that Lansdale's clandestine ops played a role in the Huk rebellion. The Huks were socialist, anti-Japanese Philippines natives that sustained guerilla warfare in the Philippines from the end of World War II until 1954. In correspondence with Bohannon, Lansdale remarked that Prouty "has claimed that I invented the Huk rebellion, hiring actors to pose as guerrillas just to get RM [Philippines Congressman Ramon Magsaysay] elected."

Debate surrounding the relationship between JFK's murder and his plans for Vietnam, while not new, took center stage again with the release of Oliver Stone's movie, *JFK*. One often cited suggestion that Kennedy planned to withdraw the US from Vietnam after the 1964 election comes from Democratic senator Mike Mansfield, described in *The Unquiet American* as an old friend of

Lansdale's. According to *The Unquiet American*, Lansdale was forced to retire from the Air Force on October 31, 1963, in real life retiring only his cover story, according to Prouty. Lansdale immediately began work as an "agricultural specialist" for a Kennedy program called Food For Peace—a CARE program, and a job that Curry admits was noted by friends as "ill-fitting" Lansdale.

Twenty eight days after his "retirement", however, just under a week after the assassination, Lansdale launched plans to create Liberty Hall, a non-profit speakers bureau and educational service intended to promote traditional military values. Lansdale gave up on Liberty Hall, according to *The Unquiet American*, when he found that most of its supporters came from extreme, Birch-type rightists. If the reader believes Curry, Fletcher Prouty suggests that readers turn to notes in *JFK*

The Book of The Film for better documentation concerning Lansdale's whereabouts during the assassination.



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Sherman Skolnick Sounds Off!

An Interview by Kenn Thomas

Steamshovel Press editor Kenn Thomas recently had the distinct pleasure of having dinner with legal researcher Sherman Skolnick at his usual haunt, the River Flame restaurant off Highway 94 outside of Chicago. Sherman Skolnick has been on the scene since his early courtroom victories regarding the corruption of Illinois state courts and congressional reapportionment in that state. His research has made him a perennial figure in national politics. He helped expose the existence of a Chicago-area assassination plot against JFK involving a Lee Harvey Oswald. He demonstrated that sabotage was the probable reason for a United Airlines crash that killed the wife of E. Howard Hunt and eleven other Watergate figures. He surfaced a great deal of information regarding witnesses to events surrounding the Inslaw investigation. In fact, he continually exposes interesting and under-reported details about current political scandals on the hotline of his group, the Citizens Committee to Clean Up the Courts (312-731-1100), which also has helped many people with their struggles in bankruptcy court. Sherman also produces a Chicago public access cable television program that further documents the issues and cases he has brought to public scrutiny. Virtually dismissed entirely by the mainstream and often labeled a kook even by some in the conspiracy research community, Skolnick's work has nevertheless had a remarkable staying power and his successes in court and in the media have earned him much respect as a champion dirt-digger and exposé of hidden truth. This interview provided a rare opportunity to discuss history with him, his own as well as that of the people and events he has investigated over the years.

Q: How did you get in to this line of work, Sherman?

A: It's not a line of work. It's unpaid work if I ever saw it. I lived all my life with my parents. Since the age of six I have been a paraplegic from polio, similar to the late President Roosevelt, who was a hero when I was a child. In later years, I didn't consider him so much of a hero. I considered him one of the greatest counter-revolutionaries of American history in that he prevented a genuine upheaval against the ruling elite in this country which was overdue.

Q: They also went to great pains to hide his disability.

A: Right, although the *Chicago Tribune* use to call him the cripple in the White House. In some ways the *Tribune* wasn't nicer to me either. What I should have learned from Roosevelt about the media because I was often videotaped sitting in my wheel chair and I didn't realize they were looking at me as a crippled bug in a wheel chair, a nut, a crackpot.



IF WE
CAN'T DEAL
WITH THEM
ON THE
LAW AND
THE FACTS,
WE'VE GOT
TO DEAL
WITH THEM
ON THE
DIRT.

Q: That's precisely why they tried to cover up Roosevelt's disability, so he wouldn't look weak or infirm.

A: It took me up to about 1979 to figure this out, after my friend says, "Hey, no more videotaping by the media, only sitting at a table in a restaurant like everybody else. None of this standing on your crutches, none of that sitting in the wheel chair, and stuff like that."

My father was a Ladies Garment Worker and I was born in the bad years, 1930, and my folks had a very great problem in taking care of me. In fact, the only way I could get hospital treatment, no hospital would let me in and my folks didn't have any money, so my mother took a long shot and she wrote directly to Roosevelt. She said, "I got a son that seems to be like you. What do you want to do about this?" And we got a letter back from the Labor Secretary, Francis Perkins, and that letter opened a lot of doors for me. It got me into the HDCC, which is the Home for Destitute Crippled Children, which was a hospital on the University of Chicago campus.

Q: So you do owe Roosevelt a debt.

A: Yeah. He was a hero because he looked very much like me, he had braces, he was paralyzed from the legs down just like me and he needed a wheelchair. But he could walk a hundred feet, like I can. I can walk a hundred, two hundred feet max. The only difference was that I was poor and he came from a rich, aristocratic, up-state scene.

So my parents were always concerned over the years with what will be with me. I had sixteen experimental operations and I thank heaven that I didn't get into the anti-doctor field, as some people are, you know, rapping doctors, because there is no way I could

be objective.

One of my doctors was Mary Sherman, who was murdered as result of the Jim Garrison investigation in New Orleans. She was my doctor until about 1954. She was an orthopedic specialist. (*Steamshovel Debris*: a new book, *Mary, Ferrie and the Monkey Virus* by Edward Haslam, not available at press time, connects Mary Sherman and Oswald associate David Ferrie with an underground medical laboratory experimenting with monkey viruses to develop a biological weapon.)

As I got older, I was very good at the special school I went to. Early on my folks bought a car and had it equipped with hydraulic controls. So as a teenager, I drove all over.

Q: In the late 40s you had that?

A: Oh, yeah. At the end of the second war they came out with the special cars for legless veterans. They put in an electric clutch, because they didn't have automatic transmissions. And they had hand controls for the gas and so on. So I learned to drive and I drove until 1959, when the car got too old to go anymore.

I learned from an early age that there are what's now called "politically incorrect" people. I don't know what they called them years ago. My teachers at the Spalding High School for Crippled Children here in Chicago were political outcasts. For example, my teacher in mathematics, Dr. Bernhard Anderson, was politically incorrect. Previous to this, he was a protege of Albert Einstein but there was something wrong with his politics. So they had him previously teaching at the jail. I had Einstein's protege teaching me mathematics in small school and I was at the top of the class!

Q: You graduated from Spalding in 1948?

A: I graduated salutatorian in my class. I would have been first in my class except for my politics. I was forever railing against the government. In high school I had a small mimeograph machine and I used to print an underground thing investigating all the teachers except my math teacher.

I learned at an early age that if you find out the secrets, you have a got a weapon bigger than a sixteen inch cannon on a battleship. I suppose that's what I have been doing the rest of my life. If you can't persuade them on the law, the facts and the merit of a thing, then you better do closet work. You go into their closet, "what about your bank?", etc.

I took a city-wide scholarship test from Roosevelt College, a so-called left-wing school, a hotbed of liberal politics, and I scored first place. So they said I could go for five years but after three semesters I gave it back to them because getting there was such a problem. It was hard to park my special car. I had to bribe the policemen to do that.

So for a few years thereafter I ran a small printing business in a basement.



DR. MARY
SHERMAN

Q: You weren't producing radical literature then?

A: No, just printing jobs for people in my neighborhood. So as my parents got older, they became worried about what was going to happen to their life savings. They didn't save much. How could they have saved much with the limited income my father, as a Ladies Garment Worker, you know?

Q: They were surviving mostly.

A: Yeah! I don't think he made more than \$5000 in the best year of his life. So they had saved up \$7500, which was a fantastic sum, by not taking vacation, not buying a new car, all that, and by living in a very reduced house. So they ran into a broker that was Jewish who talked their lingo from the old country. And he sweet-talked them into turning their life savings over to him and he's going to make it into something with me as a beneficiary. Well, he lost all the money on margin, without us ever signing any papers authorizing him to gamble with the money on margin. When he got through with it, not only was the \$7500 not there anymore, he claimed my folks owed him \$20,000. So we hired a lawyer and we spent I don't know how many years fighting. I used to go myself all the time with the lawyer.

Q: This was your first experience with the court?

A: Yeah, and my lawyer used to say, "Look sad. Tell your parents to cry a little bit." And I thought this was humiliating. In other words, a cripple and his parents are coming there to get their money. So he says, "Go to your ward committeeman." And I say, "What do you gotta do?" And he says, "You got to give him something. He's got to intercede with the judge." And I says, "What does that mean?" "He's got to go and do something. There's so many voters for the Democratic Party at your address. You're willing to contribute to the judge or the Democratic Party or his campaign. You gotta send him about \$300 minimum." And I says, "To do what?" "For a proper hearing!" And this first lawyer urged me to study law, which I did.

Q: After he introduced you to corruption.

A: Yeah. Well, the first trial we had by jury was fixed.

Q: So you hadn't come up with money for the judge?

A: No. First of all, we didn't have it and number one, we wouldn't do it!

The bailiff in charge of the jury was the neighbor of the forelady that ran the jury. The judge goes home and puts the bailiff in charge and the bailiff tries to kick me and my dad out of the courtroom. We stood there and the bailiff lets Hornblower and Weeks, that's Hornblower's lawyer, a big-shot, stand by the jury door to talk and tell them that Skolnick is a rat, he's no good, he's a liar all his life, at the jury door! Right there at the keyhole! This is all documented. It became a federal lawsuit.

I says, "Hey, bailiff! Me and my father, we'll

come there and talk how nasty they are!" "No, no, no, get the hell away." When the trial ends, I call up my lawyer at 11:30 because the jury comes out of there with no verdict, and I tell the bailiff, "Hey, before we go home, where are the papers?" "I didn't find any." "Wait a minute, they went in there with evidence." "It's all gone, we don't know where it is."

So I call up my lawyer at home and I wake him up. He went home. He left me and my father to be in the courtroom near the jury door. He says, "Listen. What are you, tired of living Skolnick? The sheriff is in with the mob here. What's with you? Are you and your parents tired of living? You got paid up insurance? If you go and complaint about these methods, which have been going on for decades, you're dead." I say, "what are you going to do tomorrow morning?" "I'm going to go there and ask the judge if he knows there's a verdict." So the next morning he goes there and the bailiff says, "I didn't find any verdict. I didn't find any papers. The jury went home." And that was the end of it.

Q: No verdict?

A: Somewhere down the road some judge got the case and they called for a status hearing again and he suggested a settlement. We were out \$7500, which was a lot of money in the 1950s into the early 1960s. And so the judge suggested \$500. Hornblower's lawyers are very big, Bell Boyd and Lloyd, and they say "we ain't giving Skolnick \$500 now or ever. We've never lost a security case in Illinois and we're not starting with Skolnick." When I heard that, I figured that's the end. Wait. So I told my parents I'm going to wreck them. They say, "how can a small man like you in a wheelchair wreck them? You don't know what you're doing." I says, "I don't know, I'm good in math and I'm good in all these things. I'm pretty clever. I got a high IQ. There must be something I can do." So I started in about 1963, I began to run into other victims of injustice. I found out that the woods are filled with them, and I became the beacon, where they can come to me, cry on my shoulder, "look what happened. I lost my wife, I lost my house, I lost my this, my car, and on..."

So we formed this little group. Now the original name of the group was the Committee To Smash the Courts. And my friend says, "No, no, no, no. That sounds bad. It's got to be a name that's acceptable." So the next name was the Committee To Protect Patent Owners. The first group that I helped were all patent owners that had been swindled out of their patent through the corruption in the courts. At one time I had the attic in my house filled with prototypes—the butterfly bandage. We finally changed the name to the Citizens Committee, not to Smash The Courts, that was too strong, Citizens' Committee To Clean Up The Courts. It sounded rather...

Q: You're cleaning now, not smashing. This was 1963, the year Kennedy was shot?

A: Yeah, but I wasn't interested in that. I was looking for a way to get in the public eye. A family friend was telling me, "you're not objective anymore about the Hornblower thing. Nobody wants to listen anymore. Certainly not

your friends, not your relatives."

Q: So your case was not resolved and you were taking on all these other cases.

A: It went on for years and years. A couple of my cases ended up before the State Supreme court in 1960s. I argued my own case. They had to carry me up twenty stairs because the crooked judges wouldn't allow me and the wheelchair through their entrance that had an elevator in Springfield. The high court in Springfield is on a hill.

Q: Literally a high court.

A: Through a series of circumstances, in 1969, we continued our closet work. We found out that there are little-known bank ownership records that only Illinois has. Illinois requires public disclosure of bank ownership, which was so secret that it was in the basement of one of the government buildings on microfilm so dusty that nobody knew it until a lady friend of mine discovered it. She said, "Look at this. Across from the local courthouse there's a bank and thirty judges and nine gangsters own the bank." So we start checking and found out that most of the state supreme court are owners of this bank with mafioso.

Anyway, I got to know some Springfield reporters and I made a mimeograph list of this and I offered to show them the microfilm pages.

Q: Falling back on your high school experience here.

A: Yeah, Closet work! If we can't deal with them on the law and the facts, we've got to deal with them on the dirt. So I found two young reporters from the *Alton Telegraph*, real old newspaper, and they ran a big story about the bank across from the courthouse. At that time the local courthouse had the local office of the Supreme Court on the top floor. The main state supreme court courthouse was in Springfield on a hill. But they had an office in Chicago called the Civic Center. Diagonally across the street was a bank called the Civic Center Bank. It was owned by thirty judges and nine gangsters. And we had the proof. I told this to the *Alton Telegraph* and they started a series of stories that implicated the local newspaper guy. The editor in chief of the *Sun Times* and the *Daily News* was one of the largest stockholders with the gangsters and the thirty judges.

Q: He also happened to be a competitor of the Alton newspaper.

A: I don't know about that, but they wouldn't run the story. So they found a way to get around it by running the story on the Associated Press hub in St. Louis. The governor was a stockholder, who later became a federal appeals judge. By the time I started the scandal, he was no longer the governor, Otto Kerner, Jr. So the story started running with big headlines.

I filed a motion to be appointed *amicus curiae*, friend of the court, and as a friend, I would point out that I was not a party to this case but the judges in this case took a bribe. I found the leading case that this bunch of judges who were stockholders in the bank, the largest stockholder was the former revenue director, Theodore Isaacs. So I found that he had a case in their

court on criminal conflict of interest. Two weeks before they heard the oral argument in the state supreme court he does a thing natural for Illinois, he brings all the judges of the court into the bank as stockholders.

So I filed a friend of the court petition in the Isaacs case. They got upset and wanted to know how I knew. They claimed that the *Daily News* had instigated me and had paid me, which was false. Then they said that if I don't tell them exactly how I found this. They didn't know that this was in the public record. I didn't want to tell them. I accuse you of bribery and you want to know how I found out?

So they put me in jail and the picture made *Time* magazine because they couldn't get me into the paddy wagon. So there were four sheriffs trying to put me into the paddy wagon through a narrow door. They took me from the courthouse where the judges put me in contempt for not telling them how I knew they took a bribe, they wanted to put me in this paddy wagon to take me to the jail.

Q: To make a public display.

A: Two got on one side, two on that side. I didn't fit through the door. The sheriff was the brother of Rosemary Woods, Nixon's secretary. He liked me.

For every hour I was in jail, I was in four hours, one judge bit the dust. They put up a special commission that investigated judges and found that most of them were guilty as charged and recommended that they all leave. They resigned August 4, 1969. The third judge I accused died. So I got three of them, the chief judge, the associate judge and a third one. But the fraud is still going on all these years later.

They committed a fraud on the court for the benefit of the governor. There was a lawsuit challenging the validity of the state income tax being pushed by the governor. It was pending in their court at the time of my scandal. In the name of the judges, they issued a decision August 14, 1969, ten days after they weren't there anymore. You can't do that. I recently asked the state attorney general, Rollin Burris, we asked him about this and he got all puffed up and said, "If any of you don't pay your state income tax, I don't want to know about this. I'm going to put you in jail." I said, "This is a fraud upon the court!" I have been talking about this for twenty years and nobody's listening. A fraud upon the court doesn't go away.

Anyway, that's what made me world famous. It was the biggest judicial scandal in the history of the United States. I had collapsed the state supreme court and as result I got to know victims all over. What I did over the years, I didn't want publicity to make money. I wanted publicity so that the press would listen to me. I got in to the biggest controversies because it enabled me to get publicity for my point. For a while there I was able to say whatever I wanted about the courts, about voting and reapportionment case, corruption, and so on, up to a point. And I got to know all these victims that

came to me.

Q: How do you make that leap from working on local court cases to these national things?

A: Well, for instance, I taught civic investigation for would-be journalists and in the same building where the college was, on the third floor was a strange outfit with no name on the door. And they filmed or taped every talk show in the Chicago area and then sold the tape, the film or the transcripts to certain offices in Washington and the Pentagon. And the courier for that got to know me and he says, "I got something for you, some documents about the Kennedy thing." I says, "I don't have any money to go to Dallas, don't tell me about no Kennedy thing." This was 1970. So I met him and he gives me this pile of documents about the Chicago

plot against Kennedy, that there was a plot two and half weeks before. So I was worried and I wrote him a \$5 check for xerox expense and on the back I put down "For the Kennedy documents, full payment." The \$5 check saved me from the rope, I tell you! Because what they wanted me to do was to blow the cover of certain police that worked for CIA in Chicago. And if I could they would terminate these police. They never intended that I as a loud-mouth would get into the courts.

When I started the plan to go to courts is when I got in trouble. Harold Weisberg says, "Skolnick, come to my goose farm." I say, "I don't know you." He says, "Oh yeah, I'm a leading writer of books about the Kennedy assassination." I say, "I'm not into the Kennedy thing. I'm on the Chicago thing. I don't know nothin' about Dealey Plaza." I never went to his goose farm.

These were all the secret documents that a black secret service agent put together, Abraham Bolden.

Q: You got documents directly from Abraham Bolden?

A: No, not from him. I got them from this guy, this mysterious courier that delivered the film and tapes to a secret office in the Pentagon which he thought to be the CIA.

Q: But they originated with Bolden.

A: What I later found out was that this was the first time in the 200 year history of the National Archives that someone stole this out of the archives. So I was planning to go to court, and luckily I didn't go to Weisberg's thing because Weisberg, after I went to court, threatened to sue me that I stole the documents from him. Luckily, I had this \$5 check endorsed by the one that I bought them from, full payment for the documents. David Lifton, who was just getting started on the west coast, I never heard of the guy, I got a letter in the file from 1970 saying "You stole the documents from me!" Lifton writes me from the west coast, Weisberg writes from his goose farm, both say that I stole the documents from them and I bought them from this strange character.



ABRAHAM
BOLDEN

Through my late friend, Jim Albright, who owned the patent for the high speed ice machine, he knew where to find Bolden at an unlisted address on the south side. So he arranged for me to meet with Bolden. So I went with a lady friend of mine in her car to meet Bolden.

Q: I should say for the readers that Abraham Bolden was the first black Secret Service agent, appointed by Kennedy, and after the assassination...

A: First black in the White House guard.

Q: ...he was apparently thrown in jail on trumped up charges.

A: So I came with my lady friend in her little red car and we sat in front of Bolden's house and I had these documents, eleven of them, mounted in one of those salesman's books with the plastic pages, under celloid. And Bolden sits in the back and looks at them and looks at each one and says, "I knew it. You are here to put me back in prison. I'm on parole!" I says, "Bolden, I want to clear you." "Like hell you do! You're part of a government

**I PROVED THAT THE CIA
FINANCED RENNIE DAVIS AND THE
CHICAGO 7 TO DOWN THE
DEMOCRATS AND PUT IN NIXON.**

effort to put me back." And I say, "I think Mark Lane didn't do right for you when you were down there in Springfield, Missouri. I think all your lawyers put together have not done right for you. I am here to clear you." "Like hell you are. You got my secret report. It's not supposed to be out until 2039. You got it. You stole it. And I'm going to be blamed that I gave it to you and I'm going to be sent back to jail and you are going to get publicity and I am going to get jail." I says, "For godssakes Abraham Bolden, I am here to do good for you. I'm going to court and attach all these documents and I'm going to confront the goddam government and I'm going to put in there how they framed you." I didn't know anything about Garrison or Dealey Plaza. I kept no clippings, I was not interested in that.

Q: Garrison tried to do something and failed and here you're coming to this guy saying you're going to do the same thing, take it to the courts. If he was following the Garrison case, I could imagine that he would not have the same faith that you had that you could do something in the courts.

A: And so I went to court and I sued, Skolnick vs. National Archives and Records Service and I set forth the whole thing about Cuba, about Kennedy, about Bolden and the fact that Bolden was framed. On the day we brought the lawsuit, one of the major 50,000 watt stations here had a good young reporter that I knew and he put a major story out on it. He eventually was run out of Chicago. There aren't any happy endings to any

of this. Stuart Pahn. He went into the brokerage business.

Q: What was in Bolden's report?

A: It was on the plot to kill Kennedy in Chicago by a person named Lee Harvey Oswald and an Oswald double, Thomas Arthur Vallee, both of whom were apprehended. Vallee was arrested on a \$5 traffic rap and the traffic ticket was suppressed and put in the National Archives. Two blocks off the Northwest Expressway, which is now called the Kennedy Expressway. And they were going to go through a hairpin turn just like they ended up going in front of the Book Depository. They found a hairpin turn in the route from the airport to the college football game where on November 2nd Kennedy was to go to a football game in Chicago. He didn't come, but his route was to go through a hairpin turn where they had another guy who was working at a CIA printing office with the window looking right down at Kennedy. The complaining witness against Vallee was Daniel Groth, not listed as policeman, listed as a witness. Groth came with a machine gun, kicked in Fred Hampton's door and assassinated people there.

Q: The Black Panthers.

A: 1969. The same guy. But no author has ever called me to ask for copies of Bolden's documents. A day after I filed the lawsuit in April of 1970, they tried to revoke Bolden's parole. And my friend on a major radio station here went on the air and saved him.

Q: So Bolden was right. They came after him.

A: If it wasn't for the radio station, Bolden would have gone back to jail. I got world-wide publicity, except in Chicago. The Chicago press ignored it. But I also got on the crap list with almost every assassination researcher. Sylvia Meagher, who wrote *Accessories After The Fact*, called me up and says, "Who the hell are you? Do you know about the Dallas thing?" I says, "Not a word." "Did you read the Warren Commission documents?" "Does not pertain to my thing." "You're a fraud, Skolnick." I says, "I am not investigating which way the bullets went in Dealey Plaza. I'm only on the Chicago plot."

Q: So she took it as intruding on her turf.

A: Yeah. David Lifton writes me a letter, and I can give you a xerox copy. "You are a fraud and you stole the documents from me." "I don't know who the fuck you are. David Lifton!" Weisberg sends me a thing in the form of a legal paper which he never filed, Weisberg vs. Skolnick, he wanted damages for me stealing the eleven documents from him. Nobody to this day has made an accurate chapter or sub-chapter on the Bolden thing.

Q: So the researchers all converged on you even though you're making a contribution to a case that they're supposedly trying to help solve themselves.

A: They've all got a vested interest. Peter Dale Scott for reasons I do not know has taken to the lecture platform and accused me of being a fraud. As you know, when I come to the assassination conferences, I'm the one they always want to throw out of the place. Now why is that?

Q: Carl Oglesby still likes you, doesn't he?

A: In 1974 or 75 I was giving a speech in Boston and I

met him for a couple of hours while I was there. He lives in Cambridge. I raised the issue about Rennie Davis, the Chicago 7 and the CIA and I tell you, Carl almost took my crutch and wrapped it around my throat. He says, "That's a forbidden subject. You are not asking this!"

Q: Could you restate what you said about Rennie Davis?

A: I came out with a documented thing about all the CIA front foundations, which I'm an expert on. I found a way to identify CIA front foundations through 990AR, which is the foundation tax return that's a public record. I proved that the CIA financed Rennie Davis and the Chicago 7 to down the Democrats and put in Nixon. And when I raised this with Oglesby, he had been a big shot with the Students for Democratic Society, and when I was in Cambridge in '75, he got livid. So he's got this mixed feeling about me. He's always worried that at some public place I'm going to say something about that and I'm going to get around to him.

Q: So Rennie Davis, Jerry Rubin, Abbie Hoffman, Bobby Seale, all on the payroll?

A: Not Bobby Seale, but the others were part of the game. They were getting money from CIA foundations. I got arrested confronting Rennie Davis on a local TV station on a live program. Rennie had me arrested.

Q: The Chicago police came to the defense of Rennie Davis?

A: Eighteen police, yeah, Channel 44.

Q: I didn't realize until recently that it was your work that helped expose the story about E. Howard Hunt's role in the downing of the airplane that killed his wife Dorothy.

A: I sued the National Transportation Safety Board and I didn't tell them that I had their file, all the pictures, all the documents, showing they knew it was sabotage where Dorothy Hunt and the eleven other Watergaters died. So in front of 250 reporters that gathered from all over the world for the re-opened air crash hearings, I laid all the documents on the table and I says, "Alright NTSB, now is the time to arrest me. This is your stuff. My friend swiped it from you. What are you going to do about? Arrest me in front all these reporters?" The Associated Press ran a story on the A wire: "Chicago legal researcher Sherman Skolnick presented today a heavily documented case of what he claims is sabotage based on government documents." Only one paper in the country ran the story even though it was on the international wire. The *Seattle Intelligencer* is the only one that ran the stories. The *Tribune* ran a cropped picture of me sitting at the table and says "Skolnick has no documents to support his contention of sabotage." CBS had a



CHICAGO
Sun-Times

FINAL

JET TOLL 43

Homes set afire near Midway



THE WRECKAGE OF FLIGHT 553, DECEMBER 8TH, 1972



SO THE PRESS IS THE BUS COMPANY. WHAT MY LEFT WING CRITICS ARE SAYING IS THAT BEFORE YOU GET UP ON THE BUS, YOU MUST INVESTIGATE THE POLITICS OF THE BUS COMPANY. OTHERWISE, WALK. PASS OUT LEAFLETS! HOLLER ON THE STREET!

live thing closed circuit that they didn't use on the air for their executives, because UAL Incorporated was the parent company of United Airlines, whose flight 553 crashed, exactly one month after Nixon's re-election. A month before they killed Hale Boggs, from the Warren Commission. Dorothy Hunt and the eleven Watergaters who had blackmailed two million dollars out of the Nixon White House.

During the hearings, on the second day I was tired and told this joke. I says, "I'm here to absolutely and categorically admit that I have no proof whatsoever that Edward Carlson, the head of United Airlines and Richard Nixon were on the plane with a .38 and shot Dorothy Hunt. I admit it!" I figured it was going to be a joke and everybody was going to laugh. The next day it comes out: "Skolnick has no proof whatsoever." And they show this cropped picture, I'm sitting in front of the table and I figured the photograph was bound to show the documents. No way: they cropped to where the documents are not shown.

Q: That's what you get for being funny. At that time, Hunt was known only as a Watergate figure. This whole business about him being one of the tramps and all that had not happened. You weren't making connection between Watergate and the Kennedy assassination, were you?

A: The one who was working on that was my friend A. J. Weberman. When he went on the road with Mike Canfield after the publication of their book, *Coup D'Etat in America*, his editor was from Nigeria, Opaku, for reasons that I do not know, he insisted that they put in a thing there condemning Skolnick. Weberman says that they insisted that the book wouldn't be published if he didn't allow them to condemn me. I am not pertinent to the Dallas thing. Why was it necessary to say that Skolnick is a complete liar? A year ago I talked to Weberman and he didn't even remember it.

Q: Weberman is virtually called an agent for Moessad in a new book published by the Liberty Lobby. Could you describe your relationship with the Liberty Lobby?

A: Many in the left wing and the liberal press are lied in, like Chip Berlet, with that Cambridge group, that are in with foundations connected with the CIA, *Z Magazine* and that, and they accuse me and my late friend Mae Brussell of being Nazis. If time permitted, I could tell you how in 1976 I ran the first large seminar in America about Nazi war criminals in the United States—before Howard Blum's book came out, before all this stuff came out—and at my own expense came up with every rare book on the Nazi question and the companies that were in with Hitler and the American connection. I was

condemned all the way around. I mean, I've been condemned by Chip Berlet that I am a Nazi and yet I ran the first seminar and nobody in the liberal press gave a single word to. I was the only knowledgeable journalist that came to a press conference of Simon Weisenthal and they took me away under arrest because it was a private club.

I deeply resent Chip Berlet, *Z Magazine*, various books, that run stories that I am a Nazi. The problem is that the liberal press will not run stories about what I do. The CIA and Rennie Davis. The CIA and the foundations, the 990AR, the public tax returns. Most of the so-called left press is financed by the intelligence agencies. I can prove that. So they're not independent. I know it's a terrible thing...and I could go into a long rap about how the ACLU has been taken over by the Baldwin Foundation, which runs *The Nation* magazine, which is very liberal and runs a lot of good stories but heaven help you if you raise a thing about the CIA and the Baldwin foundation. It's because of my work in that area that I get rapped by the left. So they won't publish me in any of their magazines. The only one that would publish my stories, about the Banca La Voro, this different stuff, is the right-wing press. I'm an orthodox Jew. My mother's whole family died in the Warsaw ghetto, the Lubelsky family. To say that I'm a Nazi and promote the Nazi cause is the most horrendous thing that you could say about me. Also, Mae Brussell. She's dead and can't speak. She showed how the Nazis were involved with the JFK thing. To say that Mae Brussell and Sherman Skolnick are Nazis, this is the worst defamation!

Q: The left won't listen to you so you're kind of pushed into the arms of the Liberty Lobby.

A: Since 1967 we have passed out these leaflets about the judges and the CIA but the public doesn't dig leaflets. It's seventeenth century stuff. They want TV, they want radio. And none of the liberal press would have me. In *These Times*, Joel Bleifuss, you know what that guy did to me? Sent a letter to all my friends that Skolnick is a Nazi, stay away from him. Leaflets don't do the trick. I've got to be in the media eye. I have been blotted out since '71. So I started with my five minute recorded message. And then in the 70s I got to know Tom Valentine and he wrote about me in his magazine, *The National Tattler*, and then he became the associate editor of *The Spotlight* and through him they would run my stuff verbatim. He'd get me on his radio program and they did an accurate transcript of what I said. They didn't butcher up the words.

There's no free press in America. We must face that. A magazine like yours is rare. So the press is the

bus company. What my left wing critics are saying is that before you get up on the bus, you must investigate the politics of the bus company. Otherwise, walk. Pass out leaflets! Holler on the street! With no free press in America, if they print my stories verbatim, the fact that they got naked women on the other side, like the *LA Star* which used to run my stuff verbatim with the naked pictures on the other side. So Chip Berlet and others say Skolnick is a Nazi, he's in with a paper that repudiates the Holocaust. And Tom Valentine has mentioned on his program that Skolnick does not repudiate the Holocaust. It happened, I prefer to talk about the major companies in America that financed Hitler. To call me a Nazi...I can't think a worse thing you can call me, honestly. Even A.J. Weberman calls me up and says, "Skolnick why aren't you at the Holocaust Museum? Why are you with *Spotlight*, which repudiates the Holocaust Museum?" So I says, "Listen, they're the bus company. They print my stuff verbatim!" "But you're in with Nazis!" I can't help it. Find me a better place. I'd like to be printed on the front page of the *New York Times* and a cover story of all my friends on *Time* magazine. What can I do?

Following this interview, Skolnick discussed his recent work with the involuntary bankruptcy case of caulking contractor Joseph Andreuccetti, which has led to his involvement with scandals of the Clinton era. Mr. Andreuccetti was present at this dinner table discussion, as was Skolnick associate Mark Sato and Michael Scott Dugan, another person helped by the Citizen's Committee To Clean Up The Courts. They explained the connection between Mr. Andreuccetti, a descendant of Italy's House of Savoy, and over \$10 billion in gold stolen from the Italian treasury by the OSS in 1943 and now located under Building 4 of King's Point Condominium in Addison, Illinois, a western suburb of Chicago. The story is rich with detail and suitable for expanded treatment in a future issue of *Steamshovel*. It includes charges by Inslaw informant Michael Riconosciuto that gold mesh filters made by a company named Wirecloth Products was used as a currency within intelligence circles. The story also suggests that the gold was used as collateral in the early 1980s to support the opening of the Chicago branch of the Banca Del Lavoro, long connected to the JFK assassination, BCCI and Household International, a successor to Nugan Hand Bank of Inslaw infamy. From the gold as well, a \$50 million contingency fund was established by the Resolution Trust Corporation to cover liabilities from the liquidation into Household Bank of American Heritage Savings and Loan, the S&L that purported to lend Mr. Andreuccetti money to finish the King's Point condos. According to Skolnick and associates, the fund disappeared and ended up in Little Rock to make the Madison Guaranty S&L look incompetent instead of criminal when its financial improprieties are finally examined closely. The Committee To Clean Up The Courts can be reached at 9800 South Oglesby Avenue, Chicago, IL 60617.

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The Fate of Lew Welch

BY CHRIS ROTH

Lew Welch, who was born in 1926 and disappeared in 1971, is one of the lesser known names of the Beat movement of the 1940s, '50s and '60s but he was also possibly its finest poet. His is also one of the mystery stories of the milieu that gave rise to more recognizable names like Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder, Jack Kerouac, and William Burroughs. Welch seemed torn between the two sides of the Beat personality—the urbane vs. the bucolic; the reckless vs. the sagacious. Scholars argue whether the very term *Beat* comes from the word *beatific* or from *beat* meaning “fatigued,” “defeated.” Both etyma make sense for Welch. He combined Ginsberg and Kerouac’s jazz-inflected ribaldry with Snyder’s quiet mysticism. His verse has the hip slangy rhythms of William S. Burroughs but also the Zen ineffability of Snyder and Philip Whalen. Like his life, his death is full of contradictions. Some wonder whether he died at all.

As Snyder writes, Welch “drank far too much, had a way with guns, and took one with him into the woods, never to be seen again, in May of 1971.” But these woods were Snyder’s neck of the woods, in the mountains of northern California. Snyder doesn’t quite say he died there. There are clues that he may still be alive, perhaps in hiding, perhaps abroad.

Before Welch became renowned as a poet on the San Francisco scene, he knew Snyder and Whalen at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. His B.A. thesis—praised by William Carlos Williams, on whom Welch foisted a copy during a lecture appearance—was on Gertrude Stein, matriarch of a generation that was lost if not quite Beat. Welch went on to write ad copy for Montgomery Ward in the 1950s, where he actually penned the pithy slogan worthy of Stein, “Raid Kills Bugs Dead” (still in use today of course). For Welch, this phrase was a sort of Zen koan about the food-chain at its most unnatural. He was to develop the theme in his later work, as he studied mysticism with Snyder and, in his poems,

tried to reconcile his hard living with the path of enlightenment. He became a rising star of the Beat scene.

By 1971, he was drinking too much to function at all well. He was often in the throes of yo-yo-ing between Jim Beam and Antabuse, but he had moved next door to Snyder in the Sierras and was trying to live in the ways taught by Eastern meditative traditions. What is generally taken as Welch’s “suicide note” was his final published poem, “Song of the Turkey Buzzard,” which sang of the food-chain in more beatific terms than killing bugs dead:

The very opposite of
death

bird of re-birth
Buzzard

...

Hear my last Will & Testament:

...

On a marked rock, following his orders,
place my meat.

...

With proper ceremony disembowel what I
no longer need, that it might more quickly
rot and tempt

my new form



The reference is to the ancient Tibetan custom of disposing of the dead by leaving them in aeries for scavenging birds. His poems had become morbid, but not dark.

Whether “Turkey Buzzard” was intended as Welch’s last will and testament became moot, for his body was never found. In May of 1971, suffering from morbid depression but at the peak of his career, Welch disappeared with his rifle into the woods. Before long, Snyder found an entry in Welch’s journal, appointing a literary executor, Donald Allen, and lamenting a wasted life but adding, “I went Southwest. Goodbye.” Search parties were unsuccessful, even with their field narrowed to a quarter of the compass. It is still a matter of debate whether Lew Welch managed to kill himself where no one would ever find him or whether he simply “dropped out” of society.

This has given rise to a number of rumors as to Welch's whereabouts. Four or five years later, Snyder, zoning out in his sauna, had a "vision" of a visit from Welch, described in his poem "For/From Lew":

Lew Welch just turned up one day,
live as you and me. 'Damn, Lew' I said,
'you didn't shoot yourself after all.'
'Yes I did' he said,
and even then I felt the tingling down my back.
'Yes you did, too' I said— 'I can feel it now.'

The whole mystery is reinforced by the posthumous publication of a talk Welch gave at Reed College on March 30, 1971.

short months before his disappearance. In it, he waxes enthusiastically about poetry but then cuts short at the height of an angry tirade against society and organized religion. Don Allen, who edited the volume, referred in his preface to the "faithful transcription" but it was later discovered that the second half of the talk had been omitted without comment. Allen says he knew about it but didn't think the deleted parts added much. However, it's all there on the cassette tape from which the transcript was made, on Side B. Some think the clues to Welch's plans for himself are in this suppressed material.

And Gary Snyder's odd remark in his preface to Welch's *Selected Poems* that "of his forty-five years of life in the west [Welch] gave twenty-one to poetry" (emphasis mine) confuses the issue. Now, Welch was forty-four when he disappeared into the woods. That discrepancy aside, it's unclear what Snyder

means by "the west": Welch never went to the Orient as Snyder did, and yet he lived all over the U.S. in his forty-

WELCH WENT ON TO WRITE AD COPY FOR MONTGOMERY WARD IN THE 1950S, WHERE HE ACTUALLY PENNED THE PITHY SLOGAN WORTHY OF STEIN, "RAID KILLS BUGS DEAD" (STILL IN USE TODAY OF COURSE). FOR WELCH, THIS PHRASE WAS A SORT OF ZEN KOAN ABOUT THE FOOD-CHAIN AT ITS MOST UNNATURAL.

four years, including the Midwest and the Northeast. Snyder's phrasing would make sense, though, if Welch had continued to pursue his interest in Eastern mysticism by escaping somehow to Asia (roughly southwest), sometime, say, after his forty-fifth birthday, which was three months after he disappeared. His plans in 1950 to escape to Chile to avoid the draft, revealed in letters written to his mother at the time, would support this tendency in Welch. There's no proof that he went to Asia, but it's the only scenario that makes sense in light of Snyder's odd statement.

The strangest part of the whole story was sworn to me by an acquaintance of mine, the one who tracked down Don Allen in a rather aggressive way in the early 1980s to try to get to the bottom of the issue of the missing parts of his Reed talk. This acquaintance was working at a diner in Madison, Wisconsin, shortly after his communication with Allen and was startled by a grizzled-looking customer who came in, walked right up to him, and said, peering into his eyes, "If you have something you'd like to ask me, ask it now." My acquaintance thought the stranger looked familiar but was too taken aback to say anything except that he had nothing to ask him and didn't know what he meant. The customer hung around for a few minutes and then left and never returned. My acquaintance claims the man looked like an older, more bedraggled version of Lew Welch.

Whether he's in Japan, Tibet, or Wisconsin, or in a ravine in the Sierras swept unrecognizably back into the food-chain he revered, Welch's poetry still speaks to us. He was a tireless critic of mechanized American society, and maybe after all he did fulfill the promise of one of his earlier ruminations:

You can't fix it. You can't make it go away,
I don't know what you're going to do about it,
But I know what I'm going to do about it. I'm just
going to walk away from it. Maybe
A small part of it will die if I'm not around

feeding it anymore.

Chris Roth's radio program, *In Advance of the Landing* can be heard on WHKP in Chicago and surrounding environs of Monday afternoons.

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The Silent Holocaust: Alan Cantwell Jr., MD, On AIDS

AN INTERVIEW BY G. J. KRUPPEY

For the last half decade, Alan Cantwell Jr., M.D. has been on the forefront of the attempt to illuminate the true origin of AIDS, a position that he shares with precious few others. The mainstream media continues to buy into the official Center for Disease Control view, originally theorized by Dr. Robert Gallo, MD, while the so called "alternative" media fawns over an alleged "medical heretic" like Dr. Peter Duesberg, Ph.D., who claims HIV has nothing to do with AIDS. Meanwhile, Dr. Cantwell, along with his mentor and ally, Dr. Robert Strecker, MD, continues to wage a lonely and often desperate crusade to prove to the world that AIDS is neither the result of an African monkey virus jumping species, or of the auto-destructive lifestyle of gay men, but of a deliberate and covert action undertaken by someone or some group within the power elite to eliminate undesirable populations. Their tool, their weapon, a mysterious, formerly unknown virus that appeared seemingly out of nowhere to produce the most fatal and dreaded plague of modern times, a genetically engineered disease, not a product of nature. It is a view that few wish to ponder.

Dr. Cantwell is a dermatologist and cancer researcher who had extensive experience with diagnosing Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), the skin cancer frequently seen in AIDS victims, long before the AIDS era. His research led him to identify a cancer microbe in KS, a pleomorphic (shape changing) organism that exists in the cells of all living creatures, and which mimics both a virus and a bacterium. Dr. Cantwell later identified this microbe in the diseased tissue of AIDS patients. Initially a skeptic on the theory of AIDS as deliberate biological warfare, he changed his opinion after meeting Dr. Robert Strecker, one of the earliest outspoken proponents of the theory. In 1986, Dr. Cantwell has written four books on the subject, AIDS: The Mystery And The Solution (1984), AIDS and the Doctors of Death (1988), The Cancer Microbe (1990), and most recently, Queer Blood: The Secret AIDS Genocide Plot (1993). Dr. Cantwell has also written over thirty papers on cancer and/or AIDS for various medical journals.

Q: What evidence do you see that indicates AIDS is a man made, genetically engineered disease?

A: The idea that AIDS was created by combining viruses is explosive, so as time goes by, I've tried to defend my idea that AIDS is man made by looking at it in terms of "Is this epidemic a natural or an unnatural phenomenon?" I believe AIDS is man made because what happened historically in AIDS could never have happened in terms of what we know about epidemic disease. For example, how do you get a disease that targets only white gay men? When AIDS started, only young, white, healthy, well educated homosexual men in Manhattan were effected. That is a very, very select group of people. And at the same time, we were told that this disease came from blacks in Africa. Scientists agree that African AIDS is primarily a heterosexual disease because half the people with AIDS are men and half are women. One of the key questions you have to ask is how do you take a black heterosexual epidemic in Africa and turn it into a white male homosexual epidemic in Manhattan? Of course, virologists ignore this. Virologists argue, "Well, according to the molecular basis of HIV and the molecular weight, etc.", and they totally ignore the issue of man-made AIDS. So I really think that these so called AIDS experts must answer questions about the origin of AIDS. But let's throw out all this homophobic and sexist bullshit that surrounds AIDS. I am amazed at seeing all the homophobic, wacko sexist science which is still being printed. When I read some highly regarded AIDS books, I say to myself, "Jesus Christ! Now I know how the Nazis did it!" As far as I'm concerned, part of AIDS science is Nazi science.

Q: What about Dr. Peter Duesberg saying that HIV doesn't cause AIDS? He seems to be the new media-approved expert since Gallo fell from grace.

A: As far as I'm concerned, some of Duesberg's arguments are off the wall. Scientists have been quick to carefully explain why Duesberg is wrong, but they totally ignore the people who say that AIDS is biological warfare, or they dismiss them as paranoid. Virologists claim that they don't have the technology to engineer AIDS, which is not necessarily true. Stocks of bio-engineering companies were offered to the public as early as 1981, the year that the AIDS epidemic became official. Now you know that something must have been going on in the bio-engineering field for a few years before 1981 because these stocks skyrocketed in price overnight.

Not only that, but much of the biotechnology used by the



biological warfare people has always been classified as secret. The results of biowarfare experiments, and the technology, are kept secret from the public. Physicians naively think if a biomedical discovery or experiment is not in the medical literature, it doesn't exist. That's ridiculous! There are things going on in science that never get into the medical library books. I have been interested in biological warfare for some time. I have never seen an article explaining what the US biological warfare program is accomplishing. Have you?

Q: Not that I can recall.

A: There's been a few historical articles in *Covert Action Information Bulletin*, but the general public is not informed about the government's biowarfare program; plus we know, and this is not paranoia, that government scientists lie through their teeth. I just recently read a new book called *American Ground Zero*, written by Carole Gallagher, a young woman who went to Utah to interview people damaged by nuclear tests conducted at the Nevada test site during the late 1940s and into the 1950s. Of course the government told these people who became ill from radiation fallout that there was absolutely nothing wrong. Now we know that many, many people in the Southwest were injured due to our atomic testing program. One document that Gallagher obtained through the Freedom of Information Act referred to these people as a "low use segment of the population." In other words, if a certain number of people in this sparsely populated area get sick, well, that's tough shit.

Q: They were expendable.

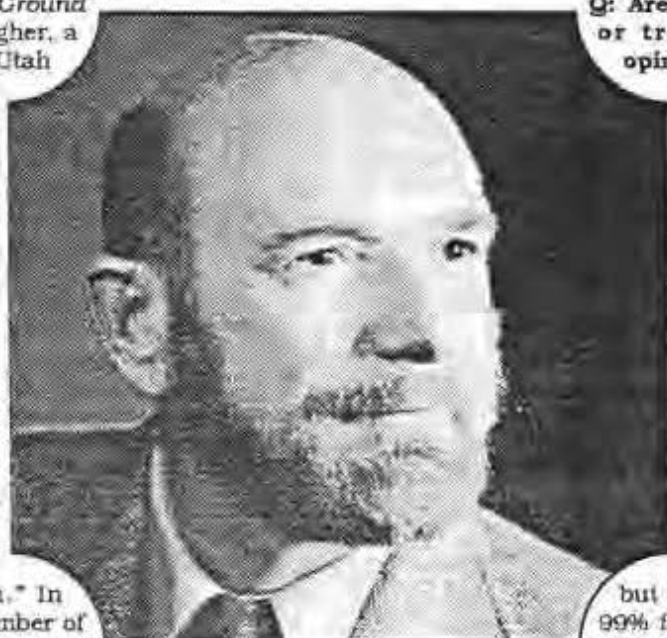
A: Of course, you had all these government experts flying in, telling these people, it's all in your mind, and we didn't do that. And it's very, very interesting because we are witnessing a government program that doesn't give a shit about white, heterosexual Americans. The damaged were also primarily Mormon. The Mormon church believes the US government is divinely inspired. In other words, you don't mess with the activities of the US government. The government sanctions and allows Mormons to freely practice their religion, and, of course, the government pumps a lot of money into Salt Lake City, so that the Mormon religion and the US government are closely allied, not only on a spiritual level, but on an economic level. The concept is, well, if

you get sick because the government has to conduct atomic testing to save us all from communism, then it's God's will.

The reality is that government experiments can injure people. Despite all this, people still say, "Oh, the government would never do that!" And they continue to believe the government "experts".

Q: I don't know whether you're familiar with the theory of Dr. Stephen Caiazza? [See "Alternative AIDS Cures" by G. J. Krupcy in *Steamshovel Press* #5, Summer 1992]

A: Oh yes, Caiazza believed that AIDS was syphilis. For many reasons, I never believed AIDS was syphilis. Caiazza believed massive doses of penicillin might help AIDS. He later died of AIDS. Ironically.



DR. ALAN CANTWELL

Q: Are any alternative AIDS cures or treatments viable in your opinion?

A: Well, that's a hard question. My feeling is that holistic therapies alone are not successful in treating AIDS. This is a generalization, but people who do the best, utilize the proven therapies that physicians offer, and also utilize dietary and nutritional programs that holistic practitioners offer. There are long term survivors. However, even the long term survivors, if you follow them long enough, get into trouble. There are some exceptions, but as far as I know, AIDS is like 99% fatal. It's possible to have HIV, and to have AIDS, and to go on for a long time. You may have heard about Michael Callen. He's a long term survivor, and is a well known

spokesman for alternative treatment for AIDS. He's very, very anti-AZT. In the past year or two, he's come down with Kaposi's sarcoma, internally. In fact, I have just read an article written by Callen, saying that he has just come back from the dead. He took a new form of chemotherapy, which he was very much against in principle. But he had no choice, and the chemotherapy was successful. Now he's gotten a new lease on life. He's lasted a long time, and he's written a book called *Surviving AIDS*. His long term survival is miraculous, but the bottom line is that his prognosis is still poor.

No one has the answer to AIDS. For years I have studied the so called "cancer microbe" which is the bacterium associated with cancer. The microbe is also important in AIDS, in that, these bacteria are very active

in the pathology of AIDS. Unfortunately, scientific work showing cancer bacteria in Kaposi's sarcoma, and AIDS has been totally ignored. So I have these two crosses to bear. I have this knowledge that AIDS is man made, and that it has a very close relationship to cancer in terms of being caused, in part, by cancer bacteria. We don't do very well treating cancer. Now, if we don't do well with cancer, why would it be expected that we would do well with AIDS? Actually, treating cancer is a little bit simpler because at least the patient has an immune system, whereas in the end stages of AIDS, the patient has no immune system. So I'm very negative in terms of cures for AIDS.

Doctor Strecker believes HIV was produced by manipulating cancer causing viruses, such as the bovine leukemia virus. Even Gallo says AIDS is basically a variant of cancer.

Q: Are you aware of Gaston Naessens? (*Steamshovel Debris*: In 1989, the Canadian government tried Naessens for allegedly peddling a fake cancer and AIDS cure, an intralymphatically-injected camphor-based compound he called 714-X. Naessens was acquitted after many witnesses testified that 714-X had cured or alleviated the disease in them. Naessens' theory of a "somatid cycle", involving a submicroscopic, subcellular organism responsible for degenerative diseases bears similarity to Dr. Cantwell's cancer microbe hypothesis.)

A: I am aware of Naessens' work. He also doesn't play with a full deck. His microscopic work is intimately related to the work of other scientists, but you never would know it from reading what he writes.

Q: Supposedly he based his microscope on the Royal Rife microscope, but his is more powerful with better resolution.

A: Well, yeah. All these discoveries are interconnected. I think Naessens' work has tremendous potential. I just wish he would explain to people that his work is a part of a bigger picture.

Q: Are you aware of the AIDS as Soviet biological warfare theory of Thomas Bearden? (*Steamshovel Debris*: A former high ranking military officer and physician, Bearden's *AIDS: Biological Warfare* was printed in 1988 by Teala Book Co., PO Box 121873, Chula Vista, CA 91912.)

A: Yeah. I know Tom Bearden. That book was written before he met me and knew about my books. To me, anyone who writes about AIDS being biological warfare is worth reading. It gets people to think, "What if?" and if you talk to Tom Bearden, he's a brilliant man with unbelievable ideas. I thought to myself, "God, if thirty per cent of what Tom Bearden says is true, God help us!" I like his intellect. It's hard for me to understand all his ideas because I've always had a hard time with

SO I HAVE THESE TWO CROSSES TO BEAR, I HAVE THIS KNOWLEDGE THAT AIDS IS MAN MADE, AND THAT IT HAS A VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP TO CANCER IN TERMS OF BEING CAUSED, IN PART, BY CANCER BACTERIA.

physics, but he seems sincere. He is, I think, privy to secret and classified information. One should pay attention to his ideas. I'm not saying to people, "Look, because Dr. Cantwell says AIDS is man made you should believe AIDS is man made", but if you're interested in the health of the planet, and about the origin of AIDS, you should at least read what I have to say. You have to come to your own conclusion. But in order to come to the conclusion that AIDS is man made, you have to open your mind to certain facts, and some of the facts that might lead to this conclusion, are very...evil. You must be aware that so called "good" people can do evil things. And you have to be aware that this *has* happened, and that it *is* happening, and that it will continue to happen unless people speak out against it! Genocide programs, holocausts, happen over and over and over again. And the reason they occur is because most people stay silent and don't want to get involved.

Q: Well, it also seems some people think that when it happens to their people it's genocide, when it happens to others, it's tough luck. I remember reading something in *The New Republic*, I believe it was, in which a Jewish author was actually aghast at someone's comparison of the Turkish atrocities against the Armenians in the late 19th century to the Holocaust. He was maintaining that only the Nazi slaughter of Jews was true genocide, and other cases were...well, it was the equivalent of saying that when it happens to someone else it's not as bad as when it happens to us.

A: Some people think the Holocaust is special, that it should only be referred to as [happening only to] the Jews. I personally feel that AIDS is another rerun of the Holocaust. Some writers say it is wrong to equate AIDS with the Holocaust. I believe murder is murder. It's like trying to make AIDS a special disease. Well, it is special in that we want to get to the root of it. But I don't think the death of one group is more important than the death of another. Hitler realized that if the Turks could get away with exterminating Armenians, then he could get away with exterminating Jews. And he almost succeeded completely! If the world community took a firm stand against this sort of thing, genocide programs wouldn't continue the way they have.

Q: Getting back to Thomas Bearden, do you know if he still believes the Soviets were behind AIDS?

A: It's hard to say. I don't really know. You'd have to ask

him. I don't believe that [theory].

Q: I don't either. Bearden wrote that although AIDS was a product of Fort Detrick (*Steamshovel Debris*: the US Army's biological warfare research center near Frederick, Maryland. A portion of the facility is occupied by the National Cancer Institute's research labs, under the direction of the National Institute of Health. Most researchers who consider AIDS to be the result of secret biowarfare research regard Fort Detrick as its most likely point of origin), it was the work of Soviet infiltrators. Yet he never mentioned Wolf Szmuness (the Soviet refugee defector who headed the 1978 hepatitis B vaccine trials in New York City, from which many of the first AIDS cases emerged), who would be the perfect scapegoat for anyone wanting to pursue a Soviet link. But if the KGB wanted to take out America with a secret germ warfare attack, why infect a fringe group like gay men, why not infect the ruling class and decapitate the enemy, so to speak?

A: Well, I can understand that. If AIDS is a man-made genocide agent, whoever created it was brilliant. If the disease was heterosexual and introduced into Americans, then the response would have been much greater. Look, if the Soviets made AIDS, and we didn't know it, we deserve to have the kind of government that we have. I don't buy the Soviet theory at all. I definitely feel that our government is involved. And when I say the government, it could only be two or three people! And the two or three people who did this could also be very adept at duping the government. Maybe the government is dumb. I think sometimes it is.

Q: Certain segments of it, certainly. Now what about Donald Francis, who you mention in your latest book, *Queer Blood*. He seems to be a very suspicious character.

A: Well, he was portrayed as a hero in the HBO version of *And The Band Played On*. Francis is like someone who is always present at a murder scene. He has to know what is going on! Francis likes to uncover epidemics, treat it with a vaccine, then find another epidemic, get that all squared away, and then search for yet another epidemic! (See *Queer Blood*, p. 42) That's also like arsonists who go from one forest fire to another!

Q: It almost seemed like he was implying, in that quote of his in your book, that he helps create a new disease, then finds a solution for it, just for fun.

A: Exactly, exactly! And I'm thinking, "Am I paranoid or what?"

Q: Well, he's the link between the World Health Organization's (WHO) smallpox vaccine program in Africa and the hepatitis B vaccine trials on the West Coast using gay men. He was involved with both.

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A: In the HBO film, he was also present at the Lassa fever virus outbreak in Africa in the seventies. And he's also the link with the pre-AIDS feline leukemia experiments.

Q: That was with Max Essex, the veterinarian at Harvard?

A: Exactly.

Q: And Essex is a compatriot of Gallo's.

A: And you have to ask yourself, why is the second leading authority on AIDS a veterinarian? When Strecker says "AIDS came from an animal virus", the experts all deny it.

Q: Getting back to the HBO version of Randy Shilts' book. Shilts is best known for the "Patient Zero" theory, that this airline steward Gaetan Dugas was the Typhoid Mary of AIDS, spreading it all over the world, infecting people he had sex with. This story gets portrayed on national TV to much publicity, and people who haven't read his book, or would never read it or any book on AIDS will see the show, and they're going to think this is all there is to know.

A: Randy Shilts is considered the number one AIDS reporter in America. Unfortunately, he is currently ill with AIDS. (Steamshovel Debris: Randy Shilts died of AIDS at age 42 in mid-February 1994, after this interview was conducted.) But he gets his information from the government AIDS experts. His book, which included the "Patient Zero" story was wildly successful. The tabloids loved the "Patient Zero" story, and gave Shilts great publicity. Of course, you have to ask yourself why so many government doctors were carefully tracking people's sexual lives? What was the cost to tax payers to follow "Patient Zero" all around the country and to interview all the people he had sex with? That should tell you something, right?

Part of the explanation for that is that the government knew exactly what had happened, they knew exactly how the AIDS virus was seeded into the

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gay community, and they wanted to find out exactly how contagious this HIV virus was. But what I think is strange, is that they never wanted to trace any gay man back to the hepatitis B vaccine program, where the AIDS virus was introduced.

Q: Why does the Justice Department, of all government agencies, have the records of the hepatitis B vaccine trials, and why are they classified? Shouldn't those records belong to a medical agency?

A: Well, those medical records of those gay men are confidential. You can't get that information. I talked to a producer of 20/20 or 60 Minutes I can't remember. It was a couple of years ago. His argument was "Well, we tried to check out your story, but the government's not cooperating." And I said, "But you guys have the number one investigative reporting show on TV. Did you expect the government to cooperate with your investigation?" I mean, come on! It was so obvious that the producer was afraid to do the story. The media doesn't want to touch the AIDS is man made story. I think the reason why they don't want to tackle this story is because it is really the most logical and the simplest and the most scientific explanation for how and why AIDS happened.

The average American isn't stupid, it's just that they haven't been given information. And then you have to ask yourself, why hasn't the public been given certain basic information. And then you have to ask yourself, why hasn't the public been given certain basic information on the origin of AIDS? Anybody who studies the media knows the media is allied with big business. Big business is allied with the government, and the media is in bed with the government.

Q: Right, notice how many reporters will get jobs as government spokespeople whenever a new administration comes in.

A: Exactly, my feeling about investigative journalism nowadays is it's rapidly becoming an oxymoron.

Q: Well, as if to underscore your point, in your books you cite two medical programs downplayed or ignored by the media as the most likely sources of AIDS introduction into the population. This is the hepatitis B vaccine trials which you postulate introduced AIDS into the gay white male community in the US, and the World Health Organization's smallpox vaccine campaign which introduced AIDS

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into central Africa, and both of which took place in
the 1970s. Could you elaborate further on these
programs?

A: Epidemiologically, AIDS in the United States traces
back to the hepatitis B vaccine trials held in New York,
which took place in the fall of 1978 and went through to
1980. So we're talking about a period of a year and a
half where young gay males were injected in this
experiment. Gay men were first diagnosed with AIDS in
New York, in Manhattan, and then San Francisco, and
later on Los Angeles. And these were the sites where the
year before the experiments took place.

The government, and its scientists, particularly Dr.
Gallo, would like you to believe that this disease
originated in Africa, and in some fashion, ended up in
the gay community in America. And the tie in, as I
discuss in my books, strikingly harkens back to the
hepatitis B experiment which took place at the time
when gay men were coming out as a vocal group
demanding equal rights, and as soon as they were
coming out, many of them were solicited to take part in
this experiment, the result of which was the AIDS
epidemic. This was interesting because the government
traced the spread of the HIV virus in the gay community
primarily by using the blood of gay men who had
deposited blood for the hepatitis vaccine study.

Q: Was hepatitis a problem for gay men at the time?

A: Well, that's another story, because the government
claimed that gay people had been infected with hepatitis
through a major outbreak in the gay community. I
think this scare was the way the government was able to
convince them to be part of an experiment.

Q: It was a lure.

A: Well, exactly. Now that we know more about the hepatitis B, we know that heterosexuals have the same problem and it seems to be more prevalent in the straight community. This whole hepatitis B scare was a way of getting gay people excited and to get them to think they have to get this vaccine to save their lives, or they'll die from hepatitis B. Now I personally have never known of a gay man to die of hepatitis B, and it seems to me that all the hoopla about hepatitis B in the gay community and the threat it represented was nothing compared to the havoc that resulted from that experiment in terms of the AIDS epidemic.

I don't know of any gay men in the 80s or the 70s that were burying their brothers from hepatitis B, but I sure knew a lot of gays who were burying their brothers in the 80s with AIDS. I feel very strongly that a lot of that hepatitis B scare was hoopla. They said they were saving people's lives from hepatitis B at the same time they were giving people HIV.

Q: The doctor who oversaw the hepatitis B vaccine trials, Wolf Szmuness, certainly seems like a suspicious character. His list of potential test subjects was so strange because it included diverse groups that he must have known he would never be able to assemble in New York City, like Eskimos.

A: Well, that was the point. It's almost like a cliché that certain groups are riddled with hepatitis B. That's the kind of Nazi science that makes for good experimental subjects. You scare the shit out of these people and you do a whole condemnation of a certain kind of culture or lifestyle, and then you zero in and proclaim that we're going to save you, and then you experiment on them.

Q: I was suggesting that he really wanted to use gay men from the start, and he just made up this phony list to show that he had considered others, but as they didn't really offer the same possibilities, he used gay men instead. So he got the group he wanted to experiment on from the start.

A: Well, probably not. I wouldn't say that for the man. When you do study hepatitis B, it was quite obvious, in those days, that certain groups had a high percentage of hepatitis B, particularly dentists. I think dentists in this country have the highest rate of hepatitis B infection because they're always poking around in people's mouths with needles and getting bitten. But I don't think they ever went around to promiscuous heterosexuals, or into whorehouses, or even into VD clinics at that time to do studies on promiscuous heterosexuals. Now you read in the newspaper that they say, "Well, we used to think that hepatitis B was a gay disease, now we know that anyone can get it." Doesn't that sound familiar?

Q: Yes, but getting back to Szmuness, it seemed to me that the reason why he picked gay men for his

test subjects was because he considered them expendable. Did you get that impression?

A: I don't quite agree with that. I'm paranoid, but not quite that paranoid. I think primarily because he was working out of the New York City blood center, and as you say, it's hard to find Eskimos in Manhattan, so I think that the fact that gay people were so available, and in such large numbers, and that he was able to choose the most promiscuous people probably in the city determined his choice. Plus, if you're going to do an experiment, it's important that you get reliable people to experiment on. Certainly, they're much easier to deal with than mental deficient or alcoholics, or kidney disease patients. Plus he would say that he really wanted to test the vaccine in a healthy population. Well, the irony is that there was this cliché that all promiscuous gay men were diseased or infected or immunodepressed, and basically that's bullshit. Gay men in general were extremely healthy then. Szmuness didn't want anybody in his experiment who wasn't.

Q: At that time, gay men were actually quite health conscious, even obsessed, weren't they?

A: Well, as I said in *AIDS and the Doctors of Death*, at least half the men, despite their notoriety in terms of sexual promiscuity had never had VD. What people don't understand is that you can have hundreds of sex partners and never come down with gonorrhea or syphilis or herpes. Some people are afraid that if they go to bed with somebody, they're going to get a STD. But the reality is, there are many people, and I'm sure you know some, who have a lot of sex partners and simply never get anything. Then there are people who go out and get laid three times a year and come down with herpes, or gonorrhea, or get pregnant.

But I think his reason for choosing these homosexual men was that they were responsible, and they were eager, and they were available.

Dr. Cantwell's books all are published by and available from his own Aries Rising Press, PO Box 29532, Los Angeles, CA 90029; (213) 462-6458.



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The Encryption/Decryption Dickwads of Cipherspace

BY RALEIGH MUNS

"At White House Policy meetings, it appears, the economic side of the table is out getting coffee whenever the national security squad turns on the overhead projector." Thus spoke James Aley in *Fortune* (May 16, 1994, "How Not to Help High Tech", p. 100) in reference to the worldwide battle involving one man's efforts to bring uncrackable cryptography to the unwashed computer masses.

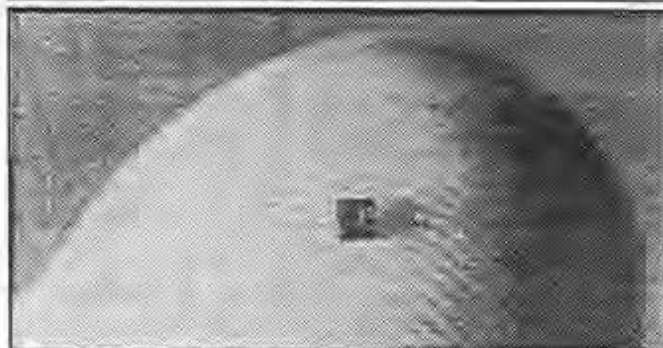
Phillip Zimmerman, owner of Boulder Software Engineering of Boulder, Colorado, utilized a public domain mathematical formula called the RSA algorithm (for its inventors, Messrs. Rivest, Shamir, and Adelman) to independently develop state of the art "guerilla freeware" for the masses called PGP (for "Pretty Good Privacy"). Zimmerman has rationalized that since the military, the government, and organized crime all have access to cryptographically secure communications, that the common person should have the same capabilities. "When cryptography is outlawed, only outlaws will have cryptography." Note that Zimmerman did not produce a piece of software that would be sold. He publicized the RSA algorithm and the PGP source code, and waited (successfully) for the information age axiom "information wants to be free" to take over. It did.

In a world where companies routinely claim the right to monitor employee electronic mail and telephone calls, and where post-Nixonian governments typically use illegally obtained information as leverage for attacking opponents (the media calls these "high placed anonymous sources"), the citizenry is the last to be able to communicate privately.

In a recent *Wall Street Journal* article (April 28, 1994, p. 1), author William Bulkeley cites electronic mail from Latvia thanking Zimmerman for creating PGP which is used to keep politically unpopular information from the local Politel. "If dictatorship takes over Russia, your PGP is widespread from Baltic to Far East now and will help democratic people if necessary."

A common rallying cry by the "cipherpunk" community on the Internet discussion group *alt.security.pgp* is "They'll have to pry my PGP from my cold, dead fingers." This is the first Usenet discussion group in which I have seen the term "dickwad" applied to correspondents. Zimmerman himself has chimed in on occasion, though his lawyers have advised he keep mum while a Federal Grand Jury probes his role in exporting prohibited munitions. You see, PGP as "public

A COMMON RALLYING CRY BY THE "CIPHERPUNK" COMMUNITY ON THE INTERNET DISCUSSION GROUP *ALT.SECURITY.PGP* IS "THEY'LL HAVE TO PRY MY PGP FROM MY COLD, DEAD FINGERS."



key cryptography" has been classified by the State Department as a prohibited munitions. In the borderless world of the Internet terms such as "international export" are absurd.

While Zimmerman may be under the Federal gun for exporting weaponry, the Feds themselves have apparently exported the RSA algorithm and public key cryptographic software in various engineering proceedings with no qualms. The war being fought is fraught with yet stranger and stranger twists and turns. Those unaffiliated with sanctioned business or government agencies seem to be most likely to come under attack. If you purchase the cryptographic software from any of the companies holding the patents and copyrights, you are safe from harassment - but are your communications safe? The same people bringing you the trust-us-we-won't-look-at-your-messages-without-a-warrant Clipper Chip only seem to have a problem with software, like PGP, which is independently developed and verified by an amorphous cadre of international cipherpunks as being free of trap doors. A "trap door" is a hook in the software which would allow "someone" to decode a message. The whole point of the Clipper Chip is to allow the government easy access to Clipper encrypted information.

Examples of harassment against PGP users abound on the Internet. In the Usenet discussion group *alt.security.pgp* a user utilizing the name of David Sternlight, has even examined a pro-PGP user's computer files in order to report that said user has illegal PGP software on his computer account and thus should have his Internet contract revoked. "Sternlight" has become notorious as a well-spoken, literate, clean-cut opponent (who claims not to be an opponent) to the use of what he considers illegal software in violation of

copyright and patent law (sounds innocuous).

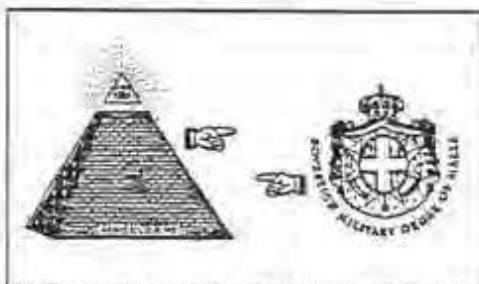
Until recently, copyright and patent issues were the primary weapons used by the anti-cryptography cabal (all upstanding citizens). Stranger twist is that the copyright on the RSA algorithm isn't valid outside the United States. The Europeans have independently developed compatible versions of PGP which are legal abroad. So Zimmerman may be accused of exporting "munitions" (cryptographic software) to countries that already have legal versions of those same "munitions".

The current whirlpools in the rapids have found the original developers of the RSA algorithm. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was originally funded by the U.S. Government, releasing an apparently copyright and patent safe version of PGP for the public to use. This PGP version 2.5 lasted only three days on the Internet before it was pulled by MIT or their handlers. Version 2.6 is due any day. What happened? Was there an obvious trap door that would indicate collusion by parties interested in a weakened version of PGP for the masses? *Alt.security.pgp* cipherpunks will be adding grist to the mill, and I will be reading it, as the next weeks pass.

Final note: Rep. Maria Cantwell (D-Washington) via the House Foreign Affairs committee, has introduced legislation which would allow the legal export of encryption software. The Clinton administration, to no one's surprise, has gone on record opposing this relaxation of the export laws. It will also be interesting to see what happens to Cantwell as time passes. Skeletons, real or otherwise, have a habit of coming out of closets around Halloween.

Raleigh Muns publishes *Fugitive Pope*, which *Playboy* recently characterized as "Ranting attempts at reincarnating a wacky librarian as a foulmouthed folk hero" that "recalls questions you had in grade school but forgot when you matured".

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An INSLAW Octopus in Whitewater Currents

BY KENN THOMAS

Rounded edges of the Octopus' tentacles arose briefly from under the relatively calm waters of a new administration's first year in office. Danny Casolaro was two years gone and the key players in the investigation he began ostensibly had left power after the 1993 election. Casolaro's work was left unfinished, however, and his metaphorical sea creature still swam in the sea of current events.

Columnist William Safire reported that Bill Clinton and George Bush struck a secret deal after Clinton's election that the former president would withhold criticism of the new administration for one year in exchange for Clinton's soft-pedaling of the Iran-contra investigations (1). A month before the end of that deal, a month before the former Arkansas governor's first anniversary as president, the Clinton administration reopened the Inslaw investigation. In December 1993, the FBI began again to interview Casolaro's close associates and friends with an eye toward resolving the question of his death—was it a suicide or murder? Under the new administration, the FBI was not satisfied with the determination of Judge Bua's report. It was still concerned with "Danny's state of mind at the time of his death", a Casolaro girlfriend, Wendy Weaver, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. They said they were going to interview all these people and then bring the findings back to their experts to determine if he was suicidal...I told them I thought it was murder." (2) Press reports were silent as to why the case was being reopened at this time, indeed few papers other than the *Chronicle* reported upon it at all. Only the dim political purpose of the coming end to Bush's year of silence even suggested an answer. Did the new administration take interest in this high profile case, touching as it does on the intelligence backgrounds of prominent Republican personalities, as protection against Clinton hashing from the Bush camp? Or was there more to it?

The review of the case had been ordered by Associate Attorney General Webster "Webb" Hubbell, then the third ranking official at the Justice Department (seen by some as the Department's *de facto* head), a Clinton family friend. In noting that Hubbell had been assigned to review the Inslaw case, long-time Washington watcher Sarah McLendon also noted that Casolaro had maintained that additional details about the Inslaw relationship with the Justice Department could be had from employees in the office of Senator Robert Byrd (3). According to McLendon, Casolaro had scheduled an interview with these employees for the Friday preceding his death. Senator Byrd's chief of staff



WEBB HUBBELL

was the wife of Peter Videnicks, contracting officer at the Justice Department during the Inslaw period. McLendon quoted Bill Turner as saying that Casolaro told him that he planned to meet with two members of Robert Byrd's staff. McLendon also noted the Hamiltons' complaints that Hubbell and FBI investigator Scott Erskine had plans to release a report without having talked to important Casolaro associates or investigating curious incidents, including a threat against Casolaro made by a friend of Videnicks, Joseph Cuellar, who apparently was also trailing the writer (4).

Hubbell himself had already been connected to the Inslaw case through the many-tentacled confessions of Danger Man. In April 1992 Michael Riconosciuto told *Village Voice's* Frank Snepp of the link between guns-and-drugs operations at an airstrip in Mena, Arkansas—a story that already loomed as a major Clinton-era scandal because of Clinton's failure to investigate the situation as governor ((5); see sidebar next page)—and Park-On-Meter (POM), a parking meter manufacturer in Russellville, Arkansas, that figured prominently in making Webb Hubbell one of the early victims of another Clinton debacle, the Whitewater affair (6). Riconosciuto claimed to have worked with Terry Reed, the Mena pilot whose revelations first brought the Oliver North-styled smuggling operation to national attention. Riconosciuto also told Mark Swaney, the head of a University of Arkansas student group responsible for a petition drive to investigate Mena, that he had been involved in developing chemical and biological weapons in a project connected to POM—apparently never explicit that this was also connected to the work he did on Cabazon tribal lands—and that the company also manufactured external fuel tanks for C-130 transport planes.

Riconosciuto had already confided to Alexander Cockburn that he had supervised high-tech equipment transfers and developed software to help launder money



FOR CRITICS WHO COMPLAINED ABOUT CLINTON'S PASSIVITY IN INVESTIGATING THE MENA AIRSTRIP, A LESS PASSIVE REASON FOR HIS INACTION EMERGED, WITH A TENTACLE POINTING TO THE INSLAW AFFAIR.

at Mena (7) and explained that POM, in conjunction with the infamous Wackenhut and Stormont Labs in Woodland, California, began production of the delivery system for the new chemical and biowarfare weaponry for use in the Contra war in 1983. Long-range transport missions require the use of external fuel tanks, but again Riconosciuto was not explicit in connecting this with his tales of space aliens or the bizarre aircraft at Area 51 that had attracted Casolaro's attention. Riconosciuto told Cockburn that POM made the tanks for unconventional guerilla warfare against the Contras. POM was to receive chemical agents from the 354th Chemical Company of the Army Reserve, located on property across from the corrugated barn housing the POM facilities, for use in small explosive devices made with the same equipment POM used to produce parking meters (8).

Stormont Labs acknowledged only discussions with Wackenhut regarding biological weapons and Wackenhut denied working with POM. POM president, Seth "Skeeter" Ward II, also Webster Hubbell's brother-in-law, admitted that the company had some Pentagon contracts, but only for "re-entry nose cones for the nuclear warheads on the MX missile and nozzles for rocket engines", not chemical or biological weapons delivery systems, although he confessed to not knowing what kind of aircraft parts POM made for one of its contracts with McDonnell Douglas (9).

Ward also denied another central charge made by Danger Man: that POM received the first industrial development loan made by the Arkansas

5. THE MENA STORY BEGINS WITH A DRUG DEALER NAMED BARRY SEAL WHO APPARENTLY BEGAN SMUGGLING DRUGS THROUGH THE AIRSTRIP IN 1982. THE OPERATION CONTINUED PAST SEAL'S 1984 DRUG CONVICTION IN MIAMI. AS SEAL BEGAN WORKING DEALS WITH THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND OLLIE NORTH'S NETWORK AFTER THAT CONVICTION—TRADING UNDERCOVER WORK AGAINST THE SANDINISTAS FOR LENIENCY—A SECOND WAVE OF QUESTIONABLE BUSINESSES DESCENDED UPON MENA. THESE BUSINESSES DESCRIBED THEMSELVES VARIOUSLY AS AIRCRAFT AND PARTS DELIVERY SERVICES AND BUT STORIES OF DRUG TRAFFIC CONTINUED AND IN 1989, NEW ALLEGATIONS WERE MADE BY A FORMER INVESTIGATOR FOR THE U.S. MILITARY, GENE WHEATON, THAT THE AIRFIELD WAS ALSO USED FOR COMMANDO TRAINING. THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE INVESTIGATED AND REPORTED TO THE U. S. ATTORNEY BUT EXPECTED INDICEMENTS WERE NEVER RETURNED, LEADING TO THE SUSPICION THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION COULD ADD ONE MORE SMALL COVER-UP TO ITS TALLY.

IT SEEMED ORIGINALLY THAT BILL CLINTON DID NOT BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE STORY UNTIL A PAIR OF STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, MARK SWANEY AND TOM BROWN, APPEALED DIRECTLY TO THEIR THEN-GOVERNOR TO INVESTIGATE. THE APPEAL, AND ANOTHER CALL FOR A STATE GRAND JURY FROM ARKANSAS' DEPUTY STATE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, MET AT STONEWALL. WHEN ARKANSAS REPRESENTATIVE BILL ALEXANDER MET WITH GOVERNOR CLINTON, HE WAS TOLD THAT \$25,000 IN STATE MONEY HAD BEEN SET ASIDE TO INVESTIGATE MENA. THE AMOUNT WAS SLIGHT ENOUGH FOR AN EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATION BUT EVEN THAT WAS NEVER DELIVERED. THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY IN MENA'S POLK COUNTY AT THE TIME SAID HE NEVER RECEIVED THE OFFER FROM THE THEN-GOVERNOR'S OFFICE.

THE IRS BEGAN AN INVESTIGATION OF BARRY SEAL'S OPERATION IN MENA AFTER SEAL WAS MURDERED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA BY COLUMBIAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS, BUT ACCORDING TO BILL DUNCAN, A FORMER IRS INVESTIGATOR, THE INVESTIGATORS WERE WARNED OFF, CAUSING DUNCAN TO QUIT AND TESTIFY BEFORE A HOUSE COMMITTEE ABOUT ALL HE HAD LEARNED OF MONEY LAUNDERING, COVERT OPERATIONS AND DRUG SMUGGLING IN MENA.

THE CLAIM THAT CLINTON WAS REMISS IN NOT INVESTIGATING MENA WAS FIRST MADE PUBLICLY BY LARRY NICHOLS IN A DEFAMATION SUIT AGAINST THE GOVERNOR. CLINTON HAD HIRED NICHOLS AS MARKETING DIRECTOR FOR THE ARKANSAS DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY (ADFA) BUT FIRED HIM WHEN HIS ALLEGED CONTACTS WITH THE CONTRAS BECAME TOO APPARENT, CITING THE CHARGE THAT NICHOLS HAD MADE UNAUTHORIZED PHONE CALLS TO CENTRAL AMERICA AS A REASON FOR THE FIRING. IN NICHOLS' SUBSEQUENT LAWSUIT CHALLENGING THAT CHARGE, HE ALSO FIRST PUBLICIZED THE CLAIMS OF GENNIFER FLOWERS.

ANOTHER COURT CASE, THAT OF TERRY REED, ALSO ADDED MUCH TO THE MENA STORY. IN 1988 REED WAS CHARGED WITH POSTAL FRAUD FOR RECEIVING INSURANCE MONEY ON A FALSE CLAIM. REED CLAIMED THAT HIS AIRPLANE HAD BEEN STOLEN AS PART OF AN OLLIE NORTH-STYLED PROJECT CALLED "PRIVATE DONATION", WHEREIN "DONATIONS" TO THE CONTRA CAUSE WERE FILED AS LOST OR STOLEN WITH INSURANCE COMPANIES AND THEN REIMBURSED. ACCORDING TO REED, HE HAD NO AWARENESS OF "PROJECT DONATION" AT THE TIME OF HIS PLANE'S DISAPPEARANCE, AND SO REPORTED IT AS A LEGITIMATE LOSS. THE PLANE REAPPEARED AFTER REED LEARNED OF THE DONATION PROJECT AND WARNED HIS CONTACTS IN THE OLLIE NORTH NETWORK THAT HE WOULD HAVE NO PART OF IT. REED TELLS HIS STORY WITH CO-AUTHOR JOHN CUMMINGS IN *COMPROMISED: CLINTON, BUSH AND THE CIA*, RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY SPI BOOKS/SHAPOLSKY (\$23.95; 136 WEST 22ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10011). THE BOOK CONTAINS EXTRAORDINARY DETAIL, INCLUDING THE EFFORTS BY TIME TO DISTORT REED'S IMAGE IN THE PRESS AND REFERENCE TO THE CONTINGENCY FUND MENTIONED BY SHERMAN SKOLNICK IN THE POST-SCRIPT TO THIS ISSUE'S INTERVIEW—A FUND THAT REED FELT WAS BEING TO BE CONSIDERED TO USE IN OFFERING A SETTLEMENT TO HIM.

THE PERSON WHO FIRST REPORTED THE DISCOVERY OF WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE REED'S PLANE TO THE NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER WAS RAYMOND L. "BUDDY" YOUNG, THEN WORKING FOR BILL CLINTON AS SECURITY CHIEF AND SINCE CHOSEN BY CLINTON TO HEAD THE DALLAS REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY. FEDERAL JUDGE FRANK THIES LATER SAID THAT YOUNG AND AN ASSOCIATE "ACTED WITH RECKLESS DISREGARD FOR THE TRUTH" IN THEIR VERSION OF HOW THEY CAME TO REALIZE THE PLANE WAS NOT STOLEN, CHARGES AGAINST REED WERE DROPPED.

**LASATER WAS A PARTY ANIMAL
RENOWN FOR COCAINE SOIREES AT HIS
ARKANSAS MANSION, WHO CLAIMED TO
HAVE PAID OFF DRUG DEBTS OF THE
PRESIDENT'S BROTHER ROGER.**

Development Finance Authority, a controversial state authority co-written by Webster Hubbell in 1985. Bill Clinton appointed every member of the ADFA's governing board and was required to approve its every bond issue, apparently with no other legislative means of guaranteeing that the money would be spent as intended.

The ADFA primarily served two masters: the Stephens, Inc., investment bank that received 78 percent of ADFA's underwriting fees and sales of housing and industrial bonds (Clinton had appointed two Stephens associates to the ADFA board) (10); and Clinton crony Dan Lasater, whose Lasater and Company firm underwrote \$664 million in municipal bond issues after the creation of the ADFA (11). Lasater was a party animal renown for cocaine soirees at his Arkansas mansion, who claimed to have paid off drug debts of the President's brother Roger. Even after a police investigation of Lasater in 1985 for drugs, Clinton approved a \$30.2 million bond issue for him to overhaul the state police radio system. In 1986 Lasater was sentenced to 30 months in prison for the distribution of cocaine (Roger Clinton was an undicted co-conspirator) and was pardoned for it by Clinton. He remains connected to the White House through the person of White House official Patsy Thomasson, manager of Lasater and Company while Lasater was in jail. In this murky financial atmosphere, and despite Ward's denials, it is probable that the ADFA did issue one of its first bond issues to POM—with Clinton's required approval. For critics who complained about Clinton's passivity in investigating the Mena airstrip, a less passive reason for his inaction emerged, with a tentacle pointing to the Inslaw affair. Mena did not provide the only evidence that the Octopus swam in Whitewater currents, however. Its tentacle also stretched toward the most infamous developing scandal of the Clinton era: the Vincent Foster death.

POM's admitted jobs for the Pentagon and the funny finances of the ADFA remained obscure for the most part in the media as Webster Hubbell's representation of POM became the official reason for his resignation from Clinton's Justice Department, one month after his re-opening of the Inslaw investigation. The Rose Law Firm declared that Hubbell had failed to provide documentation for expenses he had charged to the firm and that POM lost \$1 million in litigation expenses when Hubbell unsuccessfully pursued a patent infringement case he took on a contingency basis for his brother-in-law "Skeeter" Ward. "Unfortunately, because of public speculation about me and my former law firm," Hubbell said in his resignation letter, "I will

have to spend a significant amount of time on an internal matter with my former partners."

In addition to bringing POM out of the Washington spotlight, the resignation shielded Hubbell from other accusations regarding the Whitewater Development Corporation real-estate investments. Specifically, Hubbell served on the Resolution Trust Corporation during its takeover of the Madison Savings and Loan, owned by Whitewater partner James McDougal and previously represented by Hubbell. Hubbell failed to inform the RTC of the potential conflict. (13) Unofficially, Hubbell was the second victim of Whitewater, following White House counsel Bernard Nussbaum's forced resignation for questionable meetings with federal regulators looking into the Whitewater Development Corporation real-estate investments. Nussbaum had been responsible for removing Whitewater files and Foster's diary from the office of White House aide Vincent Foster less than three hours after Foster's death from a gunshot wound. He was accompanied on that visit by Patsy Thomasson.

Foster's last weekend had been spent in the company of Webster Hubbell, his wife and another couple, White House counsel Michael Cardozo and his wife. Hubbell joined the group in Maryland after leaving the meeting that informed William Sessions of his dismissal as FBI director. After returning from a Hawaiian vacation, Bill Clinton spent that weekend in Arkansas dining with David Edwards, a former Stephens Inc. employee and conduit for \$23 million from the king of Saudi Arabia for the Middle Eastern studies program at the University of Arkansas. Clinton had one last twenty minute conversation with Foster the Monday night before his death. (14) Oddly, one of Foster's last phone conversations on the morning of his death was with Brantley Buck, the Rose Law Firm partner assigned to investigate Webster Hubbell and POM. (15)

1. Saffire, William, "No Wonder Bush Is Quiet About Clinton," *Houston Chronicle*, September 10, 1993.
2. Taylor, Michael and Littman, Jonathan, "Death of Conspiracy Investigator Probed," *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 12, 1994.
3. Sarah McLendon's *Washington Report*, January 6, 1994.
4. McLendon.
5. See inset, page 38.
6. Sneypp, Frank, "Clinton and the Smuggler's Airport," *Village Voice*, April 14, 1992.
7. Cockburn, Alexander, "Meters and Mortars," *New Statesman*, March 27, 1992.
8. Cockburn.
9. Cockburn.
10. Davis, L. J., "The Name of the Rose," *The New Republic*, April 4, 1994.
11. "The Lasater Affair, Ghosts of Carelessness Past," *The Economist*, May 7, 1994.
12. Davis.
13. Davidson, Joe, "Hubbell Resigns Key Justice Post in Surprise Move," *Wall Street Journal*, March 15, 1994.
14. "The Foster Death," *Washington Post*, January 14, 1994.
15. Isikoff, Michael, "Conspiracy Theorists Find Foster Case Hard To Resist," *Washington Post*, March 13, 1994.

Here's the new underground best-seller on the JFK assassination that documents the Israeli Mossad connection to the crime of the century . . .

FINAL JUDGMENT

The Missing Link in the JFK Assassination Conspiracy

By Michael Collins Piper

In Oliver Stone's *JFK*, actor Kevin Costner (portraying Jim Garrison) confronts actor Tommy Lee Jones (portraying Clay Shaw) and displays Italian newspaper articles exposing the activities of a Rome-based operation known as Permindex. Shaw, an international trade executive, served on the board of Permindex. In fact, Garrison had unwittingly stumbled upon the Israeli Mossad connection to the murder of President Kennedy. *Final Judgment* is the extraordinary book that tells the whole incredible story as it has never been told before.

A primary shareholder in Permindex was the Banque De Credit International (BCI) of Geneva, founded by Rabbi Tibor Rosenbaum, the first director of finance and supply for Israel's intelligence service, the Mossad. The Mossad-sponsored Swiss bank was also the chief European money-laundering center for Meyer Lansky, the "chairman of the board" of the international crime syndicate and an Israeli loyalist whose operations meshed closely on many fronts with the American CIA. The chief executive officer of Permindex was Major Louis M. Bloomfield of Montreal, himself a key figure in the Israeli lobby and an operative of the powerful Bronfman family of Canada. The Bronfmans were not only long-time Lansky associates, but also among Israel's leading patrons. Permindex was most assuredly not a "Nazi front" as some JFK assassination researchers would like to think.

In the pages of *Final Judgment* the Israeli connection to the JFK assassination is explored in frightening—and fully documented—detail. For example, did you know:

- That JFK was engaged in a bitter secret conflict with Israel and that Israeli Prime Minister Ben-Gurion resigned in disgust, saying that JFK's stance threatened Israel's very survival? (See Chapter 5)
- That Lyndon Johnson immediately reversed JFK's policy toward Israel and that Johnson's disastrous CIA-backed war in Vietnam proved beneficial to Israel? (See Chapter 6)
- That Carlos Marcello and Santo Trafficante, the Mafia figures often accused of being behind the JFK assassination, were only lieutenants of Meyer Lansky? (See Chapter 10, Chapter 11 and Chapter 12)
- That it was James Jesus Angleton, the chief of the CIA's Mossad liaison desk, who was behind the false claim that Lee Harvey Oswald had met with KGB officials in Mexico City? (See Chapter 16)
- That a retired French diplomat says that the Mossad contracted out a hit team through allies in French intelligence and that the hired guns carried out the JFK assassination? Yes, there was a "French connection" but it's also the "Israeli connection" and here's the whole ugly truth. (See Chapter 16).

These are just a few of the amazing revelations that appear in this shocking 352-page assembly of facts which, taken together, illustrate clearly that the Israeli Mossad collaborated with the CIA and organized crime in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Documented with some 677 footnotes, *Final Judgment* demonstrates that it is clearly the Mossad which is the one force which ties the most frequently alleged conspirators together.

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Caries, Cabals and Correspondence

Letters From Readers

Thank you for *Steamshovel*. There is a mountain of SHIT to remove, so fire up the boiler.

Bob DeFord
Big Sur, CA

On the recent suicide of Kurt Cobain, leader of the rock group Nirvana: It is a tale of the American Dream. Form a band with an innovative style. Get signed to a record contract. Release a platinum selling album. Make millions of dollars. Buy a lavish mansion. Attain everything Life has to offer. Then blow your brains out. Contemporary society has gotten so bad that even millionaires are killing themselves. Everyone thinks Kurt wasted himself because he couldn't kick heroin. Or because of the pressures of fame?

Cobain deserves better than this. He was a talented creative artist, and a human being of astonishing sensitivity and integrity. His suicide demonstrated the innate incorruptibility of who he really was. He loved his fans and was honored by the fact that they loved him and honored his music. He was a lifelong victim of the plastic superficiality and materialistic insensitivity of our worthless society. He loved his fans so much that he chose to kill himself rather than sell out to fame and fortune and become a vicarious pop-culture media doll that helps to create an illusory openness that society in fact crushes out of existence every day. I'm sure he knew and felt this in the deepest levels of himself. He, despite many shortcomings, died a hero.

Kurt has been understated by both his sympathizers and detractors since his death. With sympathetic rock critics going on with the "hopeless junkie routine", which is scarcely better than Rush Limbaugh referring to Kurt as "a worthless waste of human debris, who should be mourned by Nobody." Such callousness is solely evident of the fact that Rush Limbaugh is an impotent, anal-retentive, blubber-Nazi bag of crap, who is a living insult to overweight persons such as myself.

David Alexander
Rancho Cucamonga, CA

When I visited Bob Lazar's home several years ago, he had a picture in his bathroom of himself shaking hands with Steven Seagal ("Of Steven Seagal and Bud Culligan: Further Conversation With Lars Hansson," SP10). I asked him if he knew Seagal and he said they were good friends, and that he acted as a technical advisor on the movie *Under Siege*. Well, we both know that Robert Booth Nichols also acted as a consultant on *Under Siege*, and in the light of Seagal's close association with

Nichols, there is reason to suspect that Lazar knows Nichols also.

If Michael Riconosciuto's allegations regarding COM 12, Wackenhut and advanced propulsion research are accurate, then Lazar's connection to Seagal becomes highly suspect.

It should be noted that Ted Gunderson is indeed friends with Nichols. At a UFO conference I attended, there was a mysterious fellow claiming to be from COM 12 who got up to denounce Wackenhut. He later claimed that Robert Nichols was in the audience and pointed him out to me and my friends, who sponsored the event. At lunchtime, Gunderson (who was also a speaker) actually had lunch with Nichols. When we questioned Gunderson as to why he would have lunch with Nichols, he claimed that at one time he [Gunderson] had a contract out on his [Gunderson's] life, and Nichols "called off the hit" for him! This, Gunderson said that he "owed him one!"

Brad A. Sommers
Lawrence, KS

You convinced me. Clinton is knee deep in blood—just another red bloodied American boy—if he pushes through that mandatory life for three-time felons. He should be the first convicted under that law. Felony 1: Lying about being different from Bush; Felony 2: Doing what Bush does; Felony 3: master-minding the JFK assassination from Oxford. Incidentally, I've heard that one of the organizers of the Olympics in Lillehammer wanted to set up an event in which Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding throw fistfuls of bull manure at one another. But some official thought that there might be some trouble if the shit hit the fans.

Roy Lisker
Cambridge, MS

(*Steamshovel* Debris: Mr. Lisker's highly recommended newsletter, *Ferment*, is available for \$20 annually from 197 Franklin Street, Cambridge, MA 02139)

The interview with Dave Emory cries out for a response ("Food For Thought, Grounds For Further Research: Dave Emory Interviewed," SP10). First of all, regarding Liberty Lobby: Emory says that Liberty Lobby has been "making a considerable bid to co-opt a number of progressive issues". This sounds to me as though Emory is jealous of the fact that Liberty Lobby's devotion to the truth has somehow led the populist—not fascist—institution to successfully and effectively tread upon ground that Emory seems to be convinced is the exclusive property of "progressives" (whatever they happen to be).

I can assure you that on a national and international scale Liberty Lobby, in pursuit of the truth, has been, at least in my opinion, far more effective than Mr. Emory has been.

Secondly, it is simply not true that Liberty Lobby founder Willis Carto has "gone on record" saying he felt the United States was on the wrong side during World War II. That is an ancient canard cooked up by

Drew Pearson in collaboration with that "progressive" outfit known as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai Brith which is now best known for having spied on the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

Thirdly, although Willis Carto was also the founder of the Institute for Historical review, it is not true that the institute "denies the Holocaust happened."

It is true that the IHR has questioned certain details of the Holocaust—such as the old devil theory that the Nazis made soap out of human bodies, but even that story has been publically repudiated by Professor Deborah Lipstadt, who has made a cottage industry out of attacking the IHR and those she calls "Holocaust deniers."

It is not my purpose to get into a debate over the views of the revisionists at IHR or anywhere else. That is not my job. I do object, however, to Mr. Emory's use of non-facts to establish some form of guilt by association.

Michael Collins Piper
Washington, DC

Oh, no!

Cathy Kearney
Columbus, MS

I have been very lucky to have observed over five hours of German motion pictures regarding UFOs, circular aircraft (discs) as well as thousands of blue prints, diagrams, etc. I thank Vladimir Terziski for researching the Nazi/UFO connection. He is on the right track (Vladimir Terziski, "Saucer Section: Secret Research On Antigravity and Space Flight Organized by the Secret Societies During World War II," SP10). Today the UFO community is a circus, with its literature nestled between the fake wrestling and cultist magazines. Ufology has become a zoo, networking its mass myth in a type of psychological virus. But UFOs are real, solid, terrestrial, tangible objects. Germany started the profile of a new type of high-tech, psi-psychological warfare, with testing in Brazil. Time was against Germany and Operation Paper Clip divided fifty million documents, blue prints on German technology with the allies. In Brazil, at the Chupa Chupa (disc) labs, it seems that the researchers were aware the war would be over and a non-Allied government obtained the German data that Operation Paperclip was to utilize. Everything is blamed on UFOs, good ones, bad ones, but with no real responsibility or blame placed on exotic terrestrial scenarios.

Richard Ross
Austin, TX

One possible conspiracy that has been little discussed is a connection between the October Surprise and Iran-Contra affairs. Isn't it possible that the arms sales to Iran were the pay-off for October Surprise, and that using the profits to buy arms for the Contras was simply intended as a cover-up—a justification in case of discovery? The amount of money used to arm the

Contras was small enough that the CIA or NSC could have found some funds far less strenuously and visibly—by making an internal "bookkeeping error", for example.

The free-the-hostages-in-Lebanon rationale might also have been a distraction-in-case-of-discovery. It certainly has, like the Contra connection, distracted attention from consideration of any less creditable motive. Discussion has centered elsewhere—on the effect of lobbying by hostage-relatives (both directly to Reagan and to the media), and on Reagan's sentimentality about captive Americans. Perhaps, therefore, this distraction was foreseen and intended.

Perhaps, indeed, even the hostage-taking was done to set the stage for this distraction (i.e., with American complicity.)

Note that there are two noble motives, or excuses, for Iran-Contra. This should alert the sensitive psychologist to the possibility that both are untrue, because a lie is often supported by more than one justification. (E.g., "I can't go to your aunt's funeral because my car's in the shop, AND I have a dentist's appointment, AND I've outgrown my black suit, AND...")

Space Needle
Seattle, WA

I've opened this letter to relay an odd story I heard last night on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's *Fifth Estate*. This was story on multiple personality disorder. I assume you know the controversy as to whether MPD is a real disorder or one brought on by fantasy, hypnosis and the desire to please a hypnotherapist, and especially how this fits in with generational Satanic abuse/worship. The program covered both sides pretty well and at the end brought out a guy named "Dr. Ross", I think from Ontario. Dr. Ross has done (hypnotic?) regression on MPD patients and has come to believe MPD has been, at least on occasion, programmed by the CIA in children as part of its MK-ULTRA/Manchurian Candidate program. He's shopping around an M.S. or proposal to publishers. I immediately think of the alleged story of L. Ron Hubbard doing work with patients in an LA hospital with his proto e-meters when he finds subconscious, CIA planted blocks, which he's able to work around. The CIA takes note of this and thus is the beginning of the CIA/Scientology wars. There's also the similarity with the UFO abduction phenomena—children taken and implanted/imprinted. I think back to Vallee's model of UFOs as social control. I try not to draw linear "connections" or "cause and results" between this stuff.

T. K. Christopher
Vashon, WA



Book Reviews

So Cool, So Reichian

Jacks' Life: A Biography of Jack Nicholson by Patrick Mulligan, Norton, 1994.

Writer Saul Bellow, described, in his recent collection of essays, a visit from Jack Nicholson:

"His white stretch limousine could not make the narrow turn between my gateposts. Silent neighbors watched from a distance as the long car with its Muslim crescent antenna on the trunk. Then Nicholson came out, observed by many. He said, 'Gee, behind the tinted glass I couldn't tell it was so green out here.' He lit a mysterious-looking cigarette and brought out a small pocket ashtray, a golden object resembling a pillbox. Perhaps his butt ends had become relics or collectibles. I should have asked him to explain this, for everything he did was noted and I had to answer the questions of my neighborhood friends, for whom Nicholson's appearance here was something like the consecration of a whole stretch of road."

I was first alerted to the new biography of Jack Nicholson when Christopher Lehmann-Haupt's review appeared in *The New York Times*. One of the reviewer's comments stood out: "But less engaging sides of the star emerge: his taste for drugs and one-night stands; his indulgence of crackpot thinkers like the orgone-box psychoanalyst, Wilhelm Reich; his habit of mooning in public places like the Boston Garden..." (Funny he should call Reich a "crackpot" since, in a 1971 review of *Mass Psychology of Fascism*, he claimed, "Perhaps it is

time to reconsider all of Wilhelm Reich...and to reopen the question of cosmic orgone energy, its effect on cancer, and other theories Reich died in Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary defending.")

Jack Nicholson is a Reichian? But I guess I knew that.

Normally, I am no fan of celebrity biography, but I ran out and bought this one. And I can't say I was disappointed. Well-researched, lively and impeccably documented, McGilligan's book is a breezy read which captures the reader's attention from the start and rarely lets go. Nicholson, the most highly paid actor in film history (\$60 million including "points" on merchandizing from *Batman*), has fashioned himself into a cultural icon of Cool despite humble origins as a nerd from Neptune, New Jersey.

McGilligan makes much of Nicholson's Oedipal conflict: Jack remained unaware until his mid-thirties that the sister he always called "June" was actually his mother, and that the couple he thought of as his parents were actually his grandparents. But fortunately McGilligan spares us the expected heavy pseudo-analysis, and places more emphasis on Nicholson's real achievements. I mean, did Jack ever play a bad role that you can remember? He's rescued many a film.

To be honest, my main reason for buying the book was to find out about the extent to which Nicholson is indebted to Reich's ideas. And I wasn't disappointed. Nicholson first started talking about Reich in his boho days as a semi-employed actor in Roger Corman's low-budget biker epics; a friend from those days cites Camus, Nietzsche, and Reich as Nicholson's main intellectual reference points. Nicholson comes through clearly as a sophisticated guy. While McGilligan portrays Nicholson's interest in Reich as a rationalization for womanizing common among 60s hipsters, it's also clear that Nicholson's appreciation went far deeper than that. By the 1970s, Nicholson repeatedly stressed the importance of Reich's sexual-political ideas, and the star's biographer told me over the phone that Nicholson had "replaced Catholicism with Reichianism".

In 1987 Jack told *Rolling Stone* magazine that he had been a supporter of Gary Hart, the U.S. senator from Colorado who dropped out of the presidential race after it was revealed that he was carrying on an extra-marital affair. "I'm a Hart supporter because he fucks," Nicholson told *Rolling Stone*. "Do you know what I mean?"



Fucking took precedence over politics for Jack. Indeed, from his point of view, fucking was politics.

One of the people Nicholson began to quote often—either he was making a study of him or doing a good job of faking it—was Wilhelm Reich, the former colleague of Freud's who developed the theory of "orgone power" or orgasmic energy and later went to jail for merchandising sexual vibrations in dubious "orgone boxes." Everybody in the later Sixties seemed to be imbibing Reich, who in his writings prescribed sexual freedom as a cure for most of society's ills.

To Jack, Reich was "the most important political writer and thinker of the last century." Reich became like a new religion for Jack, a counterpoint to Catholicism, and one that, like the Mother Church, contained articles of faith that might be utilized in every area of life.

When he was promoting *Drive, He Said*, his definitive movie on the Sixties, Jack continually brought up Reich's name. "I do feel that the country is hung up in a sexually repressive society," Nicholson said in a 1971 radio interview, expounding on his belief in Reichian theories, which in his mind were linked, intriguingly, with infant psychology and familial relationships.

"The way Reich describes it—the very description of the convulsion of an orgasm, of a change, of an expansion and contraction...He believes that from infancy it is incorporated into the psychology of every person; that they deal with the flow of 'sexual energy' by either holding it down—as you do with breathing...You control its expression by how much 'fuel' you give it to express itself...You then develop 'familial relationships' around these attitudes of tension—and the 'family' then develops it into towns, cities, and societies."

Jack may have been standoffish about some aspects of the Sixties, but he understood what would work for him. Drugs and sexual liberation yielded positive results, in his case; and the personal and professional growth, which he boasted about, was obvious to close friends.

Nicholson's little known *Drive, He Said* was an explicitly Reichian movie, according to the actor's interviews promoting the film. Throughout his career, Nicholson has eschewed traditional politicking so ridiculous and rife among Hollywood stars. His consistent ability to capture free—even explosive—emotional expression on the screen casts a whole new light upon his experiences in Reichian therapy, in which patients are encouraged to break down their resistance against feeling deep emotion.

In most ways the character of Gabriel, who

"goes crazy under the stress of his vision," in Nicholson's words, was closer to Jack: like Jack, a loser with women, with a history of premature ejaculation. (Nicholson wrote a scene, not in the book, that implied as much.)

"Gabriel is a Reich-influenced, young, politically revolutionary character, who believes what Reich said about politics," Nicholson said in interviews following the film's release. "His action through the film is the life of Reich; he was right, what he was saying was right, no one believed him; it drove him crazy and he was institutionalized." (p.216)

Of course, Jack Nicholson wasn't the only celebrity Reichian; those were different times.

"I kind of admired the way Jack was able to bring everything down to the bottom line." (Susan) Strasberg continued. "He didn't complicate things in the way that some actors do. When we were filming [the sex scene], for example, I discussed Reichian therapy with him. I had been in Reichian therapy, and so had Jack. I believe, Reich was a brilliant man with complex theories, far ahead of their time, about the bio-energy of the body. And I remember Jack distilling it all down to 'You fuck better.'" (p.186)

—Jim Martin

The Ultimate Computer Crime

Votescam: The Stealing of America by James M. Collier and Kenneth F. Collier, Victoria House Press, 67 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005. (\$6.99)

Shocking, outrageous and definitely too controversial for prime-time nooz, *Votescam: The Stealing of America* is one of the most important stories of the year.

The premise? "Computerized voting gives the power of selection, without fear of discovery, to whomever controls the computer."

Former rock impresarios, New Wave entrepreneurs, and investigative journalists, Jim and Ken Collier stepped into a virtual netherworld of political and bureaucratic corruption ranging from Dade County, Florida to Washington DC.

The Collier brothers' long strange trip began in the heady 1970s. Before they got involved in politics, the brothers put on the Doors concert in Dade County where Jim Morrison got arrested for obscenity doing his infamous jerk-off routine.

Then, almost on a lark, Ken decided to test the American political process by running for Congress against Claude Pepper. They simply wanted to "use the system to see if things that needed to be done actually could get done." They even got a book deal from Dell

Publishing to write about their adventures. *Running Through the System: Ballots not Bullets.*

Spending almost no money on their campaign, they were surprised to hear on election night coverage that Ken's vote had jumped to 31%. Then mysteriously by the next "projection", the vote had dropped to 16%. And not too surprisingly Ken lost.

Investigating further, the brothers began looking for anomalies, a pattern in the official hand-written records of the voting machine tallies. They soon recognized a bland gray sameness to all of the signatures of the vote canvassers. Yup, they were forgeries. They even found the guy who wrote an article about it, "How To Forge Documents with a Bank Rapidograph" for *Police Magazine*.

Votescam is a true-crime real-life detective story as the brothers uncover more low-tech vote-stealing techniques like: 1. shaving the plastic wheels inside voting machines; 2. printing blank canvass sheets which could be filled in later; and 3. the ubiquitous Printomatic voting machines which can be pre-arranged for a win by the candidate of choice.

And then there's the News Election Service (NES) of New York. Never heard of it? According to a CIA-sponsored think tank study unearthed by the Collier brothers, "NES is a wholly owned subsidiary joint-venture of national television networks ABC, CBS, and NBC and the press-wire services AP and UPI. This private organization performs without a contract, without supervision by public officials. It makes decisions concerning its duties according to its own criteria. The question of accountability of News Election Service has not arisen in the nation's press because the responsibility NES now has in counting the nation's votes was assumed gradually over a lengthy period without ever being evaluated as an item on the public agenda."

According to the Colliers, "the NES mainframe computer has the capability, via telephone lines, of 'talking' back and forth with county and state government mainframes. During the important 60-day certification period after an election, the counts in the county and state mainframes can still be manipulated by outsiders to conform to earlier TV projections."

When asked by our reporters how NES counts and disseminates the vote nationwide, the president of NES replied, "This is not a proper area of inquiry." Oh, zat right?

With an answer like that, try to figure out the odd coincidence of all the networks coming up with the same "projections" at the same time. They do.

And what if "deniability" and "untrackability" were built into the secret source codes that run the machines?

Votescam is a real page-turner as the brothers practice their take-no-prisoners brand of reporting, even getting the League of Women Voters on video doing the



dirty deed.

Describing the Collier brothers' video, attorney Ellis S. Rubin in the Voters' Ombudsman report, writes "you will be shocked and sickened to see seventy workers from the League of Women Voters sitting at long tables at the Dade County tabulation center using pencils to punch holes in thousands of paper punchcard computer ballots prior to their being counted." The LWV were quietly dropped after this revelation.

This book is an absolute must-read because it names names—a Supreme Court justice, the most powerful female publisher in America, and the current US Attorney

General—all culpable in withholding evidence of massive vote fraud in America.

Votescam: The Stealing of America is a troubling look at the corruption of the American vote that most people don't want to believe is even partially true. It asserts the unthinkable—the ultimate computer crime.

And you keep wondering why you vote and the rascals never seem to get thrown out? This book will set your mind a'spinning. Guaranteed.

—Uri Douberko

No Gemstone Rosetta Stone

Project Seek: Onassis, Kennedy, and the Gemstone Thesis, Bridger House Publishers, Inc. 1994.

In *Project Seek* one seeks in vain through its 388 pages to find much that is new on the subject of the Gemstone File. Gerald A. Carroll, "program assistant and adjunct assistant professor...at the University of Iowa," has written what the publisher touts as the first treatment of Gemstone to be "seriously researched and confirmed through independent, objective means." But Carroll is playing hide-and-seek when he hides the fact that one third or more of his book was previously published in my own *The Gemstone File* (Illuminet, 1992). Carroll says, "The Skeleton Key appears here, for the first time, in annotated form." Not.

Beyond the Key and the Kiwi and a lot of paraphrasing from my book, the book is mostly padding.

Carroll also implies that my interview with Stephanie Caruana, the person who most likely penned the Skeleton Key to the Gemstone File, is a fabrication by me. "It was only through Keith's narrative in *The Gemstone File* that the breakthrough was achieved—that the Skeleton Key editor at long last had been 'found' and that some original Roberts scripture was suddenly extant," according to Carroll.

If Carroll doubted the authenticity of my interview with Caruana, might he not have exercised some of his "objectivity" and dropped me a line, asking to review my file of Caruana correspondence? Perhaps he might have inquired about Caruana's phone number?

Or might he not have collared her after her rant as a participant on my Gemstone panel discussion at the Phenomicon in 1992?

Along with a few new observations on Gemstone, we are mostly given material without much bearing on the subject: page after page of Carroll's partially-informed views on the JFK hit, BCCI, Paul Wilcher, Casolaro's Octopus, the Illuminati...There are even several pages comparing the Gemstone material to the Indiana Jones films.

A "Conspiracy Network" chart at the back of the book provides a handy index to the muddle that is Carroll's view of conspiracy politics—you're going to want to laminate this one for your billfold. The Illuminati and Freemasonry (which Carroll swings into action against with two sentences in his book) are depicted at the top of the conspiracy heap, branching downwards to the Gemstone Files, which branches into the Committee of 300, the Olympians, and the Trilateralists on one hand, and Torbitt, Brussell, and Onassis/Nazis on the other.

Is all this willful disinformation and obfuscation? Or is this just a book which is miles from the original spirit of Gemstone, muffling whatever original message which might have been contained in the Stone with layer after layer of conspiratorial cotton wool?

—Jim Keith

(*Steamshovel Debris*: Jim Keith is the editor of *The Gemstone File* and *Secret and Suppressed: Banned Ideas and Hidden History*. His new book is *Casebook on Alternative 3: UFOs, Secret Societies, and World Control*. All of these books are available from Illuminet Press, PO Box 2808, Lilburn, GA 30226, Phone: 1-800-680-INET.)

Kennedy Round Up

Of the new JFK assassination books, the one that adds the most to the libraries of novices and veterans of the topic is Robert Groden's *The Killing of the President* (\$30; Viking Studio Books, Penguin Books USA Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014.) Groden, of course, has done more than any other researcher to expose the intricacies of the Zapruder film to researchers, through rotoscoping and enlargements that appear now on virtually every amateur video documentary of the assassination—sometimes dubbed to smudges by many generations. His enlargements of the Zapruder frames as well as other films he has collected and has been working on, most notably the Charles Bronson film containing a previously unknown view of the Elm Street sequence, can be found in this coffee-table edition. The commentary will not only enlighten uninformed coffee-table guests but it presents new and under-reported information that will inform some buffs and remind others of significant, fascinating and unresolved aspects of the crime. For instance, Groden reproduces the "tramps" photos and seems to have no problem stating flatly that they picture E.

Howard Hunt; his enlargements even reflect what he labels as a radio control device behind Hunt's ear. *The Killing of the President* is a plush, bountiful presentation of the visual elements of the JFK assassination that really sets a new standard for research in the photographic materials. (An accompanying video release was unavailable to *Steamshovel* at press time.)

Michael Collins Piper brings a perspective that is relatively new to JFK studies but an old saw to his publishers, a subset of the Liberty Lobby. *Final Judgement: The Missing Link In The JFK Assassination Conspiracy* (\$20; The Wolfe Press, Washington, DC) looks at the involvement of the Mossad, the Israeli secret police, in the JFK hit and makes the case that it was a pre-dominant element. The thesis certainly has been under-examined in the past and raises some interesting historical questions about the relationship between the Kennedys and Israel that date back to Joseph Kennedy's Neville Chamberlain-like nods to the Nazis. The book cannot be read, however, without trying to identify the fine line of an anti-Israel/anti-Zionist critique with old-fashioned anti-Semitism.

The main thesis of the book is not what recommends it, however. Included in its pages is a discussion of Mark Lane's defense of the Liberty Lobby against E. Howard Hunt's defamation suit. It condenses and in some ways makes the trial more clear than Lane's own *Plausible Denial*. Readers will recall that Hunt brought suit after Victor Marchetti published an article in the Liberty Lobby's *Spotlight* suggesting that the CIA was about to issue a memo charging Hunt with complicity in the assassination. Marchetti's article stated explicitly that this memo was created for purposes of limited hangout, to sacrifice Hunt as a rogue element and deflect criticism of the CIA as an institution. The Liberty Lobby claimed no malice in publishing the story but Hunt won the original case. Lane took it up on appeal and won by changing the defense to proving that Hunt was in Dallas and was complicit in the conspiracy, a charge never made in the original Marchetti article. If for no other reason, *Final Judgement* is worth the readers' attention to discover what a piece of lawyer work that trial became.

Ron Lewis' book, *Flashback: The Untold Story of Lee Harvey Oswald* (14.95; Lewcom Productions, POB 2429, Roseburg, Oregon 97470), has the most to offer in terms of local color and period detail about the assassination. Lewis met Oswald in October 1962 and had an intermittent relationship with him through October of the next year. In August 1963, Oswald confided in Lewis the plan to kill Kennedy and Lewis failed to bring the information to authorities. Like Robert Morrow (*Steamshovel Debris*: whose claim that Robert Kennedy was killed by a Mossad agent with gun disguised as a camera recently cost the *Globe* tabloid \$3 million in a defamation suit), Lewis has confessed publicly to this complicity and has been investigated by the FBI, which does not prosecute for fear of exposing the conspiracy.

Lewis was first incarcerated at age 18 and was

living under an assumed name in fear of being prosecuted for check-bouncing when he met Oswald. After the assassination he hid for years in Del Rio, Texas, with his family thinking him dead. In addition to reflecting his life in the Oswaldesque under-class, Lewis' account contains a vivid reflection of its banal detail. In complaining about his meager pay as a messenger boy for Guy Bannister, for instance, Lewis quotes Oswald: "If I had to depend on thirty-three dollars a week, I couldn't even buy Marina a thirty-nine cent pair of panties," Lee told me. He discussed Marina's panties in his half-kidding, half-serious manner, saying, "I'm serious...you should see her panties! The elastic is giving out and she wants some new ones"...the panties she wore obviously weren't designed for the latter stages of pregnancy."

All The Rest

On the UFO publishing front, two offerings should grab reader attention: Linda Moulton Howe has produced a glossy, slick, large, comprehensive and copiously illustrated volume on crop circles, animal mutilations and human abductions entitled *Glimpses of Other Realities, Volume 1: Facts and Eyewitnesses* (\$39.95; Linda Moulton Howe Productions, POB 538, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19008); and Bill Barker has released a two-package kit of his eerie, all-too-real alien cartoons, *Schwa and Counter Schwa* (send SASE to Schwa, Box 6084, Reno NV 89513 for more information). Howe's book gives alternately beautiful and repugnant color photographic images of crop circles, dismembered cattle and abductee impressions of alien presence.

Glimpses presents the view that these phenomena may reflect "another intelligence that is facing environmental survival issues as we are on our own planet", but does it more with a presentation of evidence than persuasive argument. *Glimpses* attempts to report on overlooked local stories from a large variety of locales to reveal common patterns that may, in turn, reveal something of this other intelligence. Nothing here, however, really contradicts the notion that the aliens are just dicking around with us.

The only real defense, of course, is *Schwa*, the unwieldy packages of key-rings, tokens, pins, bumper stickers, booklets and cartoons put out by Barker. These new materials note that "Alien Is Beautiful" and that "This Planet Contains Life Of An Unusual and Graphic Nature", and present a variety of keyhole gizmos and charms to detect and expose such alienism. Amidst the ubiquitous Grey visage in Barker's drawings, which comprise two large booklets in this latest outing, is the stick man—a one dimensional ordinary guy overwhelmed by the alien madness. Steve Ditko comes to mind as an antecedent in the graphic arts. Jacques Vallee promises to use the Alien Detector at the next MUFON convention.

More serious students of alien land/timescapes would do well to boot up the *Timewave Zero* software (\$49; Dolphin Software, 48 Shattuck Square #147,

Berkeley CA 94704). Based on Terence McKenna's millennial/apocalyptic theories, which were laid upon him by aliens after a heavy mushroom encounter in the Columbian Amazon in 1971, it currently projects the singularity event at the end of history coming in on December 21, 2012, after which hopefully we can all relax. This software displays any part of McKenna's timewave as a western calendar graph. The user can see the 4.5 billion year history of earth or zero in on portions as brief as 92 minutes. It was developed by Peter Meyer in consultation with Terence McKenna. It's IBM PC compatible (graphics adapter or not) and requires MS-DOS 2.10 or later.

Robert Anton Wilson writes, "I don't care what you say about the video—as long as you get the ordering information correct!" as if to suggest *Steamshovel* would have anything but high praise for *Fear in the Night: Demons, Incest and UFOs* (\$14.95; Permanent Press, Department S, PO Box 700305, San Jose CA 95170). Any chance to be regaled and enlightened by this great professor of the higher circuits is a bargain at almost any price—

It's surprising really that recent Wilson-is-Dead rumors haven't put the price for this tape through the roof. (In fact, *Steamshovel* is still waiting for the effect of the Wilson-is-Orson Welles rumor to impact on the back issue market.) On the tape, RAW tackles issues surrounding false memory syndrome, where sham psychotherapy meets the tribulations of abductee victims, but the lecture is also almost a picaresque of many wide-ranging amusements—including Wilson's report on how Berkeley (as in "Berkeley, dooooo") got its name and his take the Budd Hopkins crowd. The tape runs just under an hour, which is palatable for a lecture, and it will hold over viewers/readers/thinkers-of-things until an expected new anthology from R. A. Wilson this year.

Growing out the Potlatch Lecture series, *Extraphile* expresses in zine form the "no nation, no work" ethic Len Bracken and Bob Black have attempted to articulate in their First Extranational manifesto "Provisional Resolutions Towards a Union of Egos". The Spring 1994 issue includes that manifesto as well as Peter Lamborn Wilson's "An Immediate Potlatch", Black's postscript to "The Original Affluent Society" by Marshall Sahlins and much else, some of it taking a bit of, well, work to deconstruct. Available for \$12 annually, \$3 per issue from POB 5585, Arlington, VA 22205.

—Kenn Thomas

Errata: The opening paragraph to G.J. Kruprey's reviews of books on AIDS last issue stated that "The HIV hypothesis, once considered irrefutable, is now under attack, as claims are being made for HIV-negative patients who remain AIDS-free," a patently absurd statement caused by typographical mishap. It should have read "claims are being made for HIV-negative patients with AIDS symptoms, and HIV-positive patients who remain AIDS-free." *Steamshovel* apologizes to Mr. Kruprey and the readers for the error.

Things Are Gonna Slide

Tramp The Dirt Down

Richard Nixon, of course, is now dead. Media pundits were obligated to come up with some rationalization for his life, of course, so little enough was said about even the disgraces accepted by the mainstream: the misbegotten escalation of the Vietnam War, Watergate, the resignation. "Well, he opened up China, dammit!" seemed to be the refrain as television commentators coughed their way through their eulogies. Even less was mentioned about, for instance, Nixon's role in approving Gary Powers' ill-fated U2 flight as means to interrupt a US/Soviet summit that might have ended the Cold War thirty years earlier, or Nixon's involvement with various assassinations. Nothing was said about the synchronistic wave of deaths connected to the JFK assassination now happening—in the wake (still) of the Stone movie, the passage of the Assassinations Material Review Act and the observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the assassination. Nixon, John Connally, H.R. Haldeman, Frank Sturgis, Bill Hicks (the JFK assassination comedian recently kicked off the Letterman show, another fast-acting cancer) and now Jackie Kennedy Onassis, all dead within less than a year. Few even noted this as coincidence.

[Steamshovel Debris: The best commentary on Nixon to pass this editorial desk came from Mark Zepezauer of the *Tucson Comic News*. Zepezauer wrote a comprehensive overview of Nixon's public life, noting the doubling of US deaths in Vietnam by Nixon for no discernible change in the war's final settlement terms; the transformation of Chile into a fascist state; the mindless support of the Shah of Iran, consequent oil crisis and all the attendant economic woes of the 1970s; Nixon's ties to the mob. He concludes that "Richard Nixon, a dismal, loathsome toad of a man, left this world a much nastier place than he found it, in large part due to his career." The *Tucson Comic News* is available for \$10.70 for twelve issues from POB 2111, Tucson, AZ 85702.]

Nixon's lawyers and family vowed to continue their effort to deprive the country of its own history through lawsuits to stop the release of his presidential papers and tapes. One lawyer, R. Stan Mortenson, told a *New York Times* reporter that Nixon had posthumous privacy rights. "He could not cite a legal basis for that concept," commented the reporter.

Assassination Coalition

Meanwhile, the effort to locate and examine documents that reflect a truer picture of recent history continues in the wake of the Assassination Materials Review Act of 1992. At press time, legislation was

pending that would extend to two years the life of the Assassination Materials Review Board, currently slated to close-up shop in October despite the fact that its members had only finally been confirmed in April. According to Steve Tilley, JFK Assassination Records Collection liaison for the National Archives and Records Administration, the board has authority to extend its own life by a year if the pending extension legislation is delayed past October. A description of the Assassinations Records Collection and its work to create an electronic database of the newly emerging records can be found in General Information Leaflet 42 from the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC 20408.

The question of what is an assassination record has helped researchers in sifting through new releases, but an equally important question may define the legal parameters of what will be made available through the Materials Review Act: who decides what is an assassination record? The claim of H. R. Haldeman (whose newly released book/CD-ROM was unavailable at press time) in *Ends of Power* that Nixon makes coded reference to the assassination in a Watergate tape should qualify all Watergate tapes as assassination records. The logic would be lost on Nixon's lawyers. Who decides?

Fortunately, a new organization, the Coalition on Political Assassinations, has formed including representatives of many important research organizations (the Assassination Archives and Research Committee, the Citizens for Truth in the Kennedy Assassination, the Committee for an Open Archives, the Fourth Decade and the Fund for Accountability) to analyze released documents, assist in public education and influence the Review Board. John Judge is one of its principal organizers and its governing body includes Cyril Wecht, Jim Di Eugenio, Jim Lesar and John Newman. The group conducted an organizing conference in April and plans a national conference on the thirtieth anniversary of the Warren Commission Report, Oct. 7-10, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington, DC. The Coalition On Political Assassinations can be reached at POB 772, Washington, DC 20044.

Mack Facts

John Mack's new book, *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens*, published by Scribner's, is being hailed as the best thing to happen to ufology since Jacques Vallee. Mack is a Harvard psychiatrist and a winner of a 1977 Pulitzer Prize for a biography of Lawrence of Arabia. His four hundred page book takes the UFO abduction phenomenon into realms undreamt of by its original guru Budd Hopkins. Finally, say UFO buffs—legitimacy.

But the backlash has already begun. Long-time UFO-scene observer Jerome Clark calls Mack's book a throwback to the 1950s "space brother" craze, when suspect characters like George Adamski told stories of

Aryan-looking Venusians bringing messages of peace. That was a far cry from the supposedly more believable tales of emotionless, robot-like Greys performing experiments on hapless abductees. Mack's aliens bring messages of peace, messages surprisingly similar to Mack's own radical-left, anti-"Western" political views.

That's no coincidence, according to Donna Bassett, a journalist recruited to infiltrate Mack's support-group pretending to be an abductee. Philip Klass and Bassett both claim Klass did not put her up to it, although Bassett's husband is a fellow editor of Klass' at *Aviation Week and Space Technology*. *Time* (April 25) reported on the shoddy research methods and indifference to clients' welfare that Bassett found in Mack's "UFO cult." But she also says Mack is creating alien "split personalities" in his abductees and using what she likens to "Chinese brainwashing techniques"—including the Grof breathing technique, which Mack calls "LSD without the LSD." That sounds less like a dispassionate way to get at the truth of what's causing abduction trauma and more like classic MKULTRA "spy-chiatry." Mack's colleagues at the Center for Psychology and Social Change include not only Yale professor Robert Jay Lifton but also parapsychologist and former Naval Intelligence official C. B. Scott Jones, reportedly the "Falcon" of William Moore's "aviary" of "FO-U.S. intelligence turncoats. Mack has ties to JST and reportedly to the CIA and the Rockefellers as well.

In the next few months we may be learning a lot more about John Mack.

—Chris Roth

(*Steamshovel Debris*: The *New York Times Book Review* of March 20 compared John Mack to Timothy Leary and quoted an anonymous friend of Mack's as raising "the specter of Wilhelm Reich, the psychiatrist whose notions about orgone energy destroyed his career." In the same article Philip Klass sniffed that abductees are "little nobodies."

In December 1992 John Mack's name appeared in an article entitled "Microwave Harassment and Mind-Control Experimentation" by Julianne McKinney in *Electronic Surveillance Project*, published by the Association of National Security Alumni. The author reports upon the experiences of a woman referred to a hospital near McGill University in 1973 during the period when the university housed MKULTRA experiments. The woman was later physically subdued by personnel of a medical center in New York but resisted their attempts to force neuroleptic drugs upon her. She later found herself in one of John Mack's support groups for alien abductees. The article suggests that the woman was "an MKULTRA experimentee being



kept on the books" and concludes that "drugs, externally induced auditory input, holographic projections...appropriately focused directed-energy targeting, device implantations, special effects and abductions are all within this government's capabilities and can be used for purposes of creating illusions of UFO experiences." The Association of National Security Alumni is a private group focusing on directed energy and mind control issues. It can be reached

at POB 13625, Silver Spring, MD 20911-3645.)

Skip Clemens and the Finders

Skip Clemens says the more he looks into the possible involvement of the U.S. Customs Service, the FBI, and the CIA in an international child-abuse ring, the more it resembles the Washington, DC based "Finders" ring uncovered in 1991. In fact, he has come to suspect that it might all be connected.

Clemens used to be with the CIA but now he says he's with a private company in Stuart, Florida called Technology Strategic Planning (TSP), that is staffed by former intelligence employees (although, unusually for a private company, its telephone number is unlisted, and Directory Assistance told me that its prefix did not exist in that area code). Clemens says the capacity he works in now is not as an agent but as a "parent." Clemens' own child was one of the victims of the Glendale Montessori School in Florida, which was busted in the mid-1980s in what has been the only successful prosecution ever in the U.S. for ritual abuse (contra Ken Lanning, the FBI's False Memory Syndrome advocate, who denies ritual abuse exists).

Numerous other ex-CIA officials' kids were victimized in that case, too, but once the true scope of the operation became known prosecutors' hands were already tied. James Toward, the school's founder, and his secretary were sentenced to 25 and 10 years respectively in 1986, but only on condition that anyone else discovered in the operation be immune from prosecution. That odd plea-bargain should have been the tip-off, Clemens says. Beyond the five victims known at the time, TSP is now discovering that Glendale was connected to a ring of Montessori schools in Kentucky, Mississippi, and elsewhere which routinely chloroformed and hypnotized children—some as young as 18 months—and shipped them as far afield as Mexico on "field trips" featuring sexual abuse and full documentation on film and video. According to Clemens, multiple-personality-disorder programming also features in their repertoire of mind-control techniques.

Clemens claims TSP has been finding similar

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case, Tallahassee police in 1987 busted what seemed at first to be a small kiddie-porn operation that they managed to trace to a warehouse in Washington, DC. There a full-on studio was in operation, involving not only child victims but also mutilated animals and other paraphernalia indicating ritual abuse. It was shaping up to be the kind of multi-jurisdictional bust that would make the Tallahassee cops famous; the FBI and Customs were cooperating on cracking the whole ring. That is, until the CIA stepped in and squashed the bust—and the story. That's why you haven't heard about the Finders in the mainstream press: it tentacles went too high into federal agencies.

The cover-up of the Montessori ring, Clemens maintains, involves not only the Customs Service's child-protection team but also that agency's executive level and the highest levels of the FBI and CIA as well. But TSP's people have high connections in the CIA too, and that's the only reason they haven't shut down as quickly as the Finders investigation. The IRS tried to crack down on TSP in April, and they've been harassed by Finders agents as well. But Clemens insists the scandal reaches too far and the documentation is too extensive to deny; even paperwork from Customs' own investigations implicates their involvement.

That much is confirmed by a 1993 Associated Press report that the Justice Department was investigating Customs Service allegations that the Finders was not only a Satanic "commune" but a CIA "front company." The CIA, according to the report, has tried to obstruct the investigation, but the CIA denies everything. The Finders are in this connection identified with a computer company called Future Enterprises, which trained CIA employees in the 1980s.

Clemens says TSP has been in touch with Attorney General Janet Reno, NBC, ABC, CNN, Newsweek, and others. At Steamshovel's press time he was promising that America would be reading all about it within a few weeks. Then again that's what Clemens told me in December 1993. But he isn't making it all up.

A spokesman for one of the two Congressmen cooperating in Clemens' investigation, Charlie Rose of North Carolina (the other is Tom Lewis of Florida), confirmed the main outline of what Clemens said. The spokesman added though that it was too early to talk about "ritual abuse" or to start setting dates for any big revelations. The investigation is still in the early stages, Rose's office said.

But if half of what Clemens says is true, there's a government-run ritual abuse ring whose discovery could shake up the corridors of power like no other scandal since Watergate. Let's hope that if he's right the CIA doesn't get to him first.

—Chris Roth

Post Partum Suppression

In an announcement for its address change, *Steamshovel Press* reprinted the words of subscriber Mike Sylwester, a JFK assassination researcher, as they appeared in the letters page of the *Washington Post*: "[the *Post*] printed a piece by humorist Charles Paul Freund on the theme that all books about the assassination are equally stupid and laughable. Which comic gets the assignment this year?" Through the good offices of Mr. Freund, who was otherwise occupied when the *Post* decided to again look at conspiracies and so passed on the chore, the comic ironically turned out to be *Steamshovel Press* editor Kenn Thomas.

Steamshovel's best attempt at documenting the *Washington Post's* notorious relationship with the intelligence community appears in its sixth issue. *Steamshovel Press* #6 contained an interview with Deborah Davis, author of *Katharine The Great: Katharine Graham and Her Washington Post Empire*. Ms. Davis reviewed much of the known record about the relationship between *Post* publisher Phillip Graham and CIA head Allen Dulles; the CIA's project to staff the *Post* and other newspapers with its assets (Operation Mongoose); Phil Graham's mysterious death after making a public announcement about the JFK/Mary Meyer liaison; and the military intelligence backgrounds of such *Post* luminaries as Bob Woodward and Ben Bradlee. "The most important thing to [the publishers of the *Post*]," Ms. Davis noted, "is putting forth this myth about themselves, that they are supremely moral, supremely powerful, all-knowing, all-caring, that they'll take care of the rest of us and anything that they do that is questionable they try to cover up." So the *Washington Post* did not patronize an unknowing or tacitly collaborating ally in the alternative press when it offered this opportunity for *Steamshovel Press* to provide a wrap-up of "conspiracy" research.

The newspaper's intention was to present a tongue-in-cheek feature beralding in the "new age" of conspiracy theories wrought by Bill Clinton's first year in office. The *Post* editor did offer caveats that the writing "had to be more careful" than what ordinarily appears in *Steamshovel* (in the *Post's* view)—but otherwise it made a rare verbal commitment to present

the material with as little varnish as possible—within the limits of its editorial mission. Anxious as ever for publicity and never adverse to exploring dimensions of humor in conspiracy research, *Steamshovel* editor Thomas took the challenge to present the often suppressed conspiracy material to the *Post* readership with minimal distortion. The result, "Clinton Era Conspiracies!" appeared in the January 16 edition of the *Post*.

Thomas views the final article as 80% successful in identifying currents within "conspiracy" research and keeping at a minimum the *Post's* propensity to ridicule researchers. This success came as a result of three weeks of haggling with the editors, however—abandoning some good ideas, changing others, and resisting attempts at putting in parenthetical jibes against the research community. A flippancy query not written by Thomas, "Was Gennifer Flowers On the Grassy Knoll?", headed the article, and it included the opinion, not shared by Thomas, that the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations are "generally well-regarded pillars of the foreign policy establishment." To give interested readers the best view of the differences, *Steamshovel Press* offered two versions of the article to anyone purchasing its 1994 *Assassinations Calendar*, the one that appeared in the *Post* and the original draft.

In the published version, *Post* editors removed every reference to Area 51, ostensibly because it had already been examined at length in recent editions. Cut also was Len Bracken's comment that Carroll Quigley's speeches made him seem less the convinced imbecile that Bill Clinton made him out to be in his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention. The *Post* also trimmed a long section reviewing the 1993 ASK symposium and the Clinton administration's incompetence in establishing the review board required by the Assassinations Material Review Act of 1992. In addition to space considerations (the chief culprit for most of the cuts), the *Post* maintained that too much JFK material would rob the article of its focus on Clinton conspiracies.

Indeed, the *Post* was most rigorous in asking for rewrites of the section on the airstrip in Mena, Arkansas apparently used in an Ollie North-styled drugs-and-guns scheme that then-governor Clinton failed to investigate properly. The *Post* insisted that this section be flushed out with details and sources, even inserting reference to Alexander Cockburn's early work in breaking the Mena story. "Clinton Era Conspiracies!" appeared before the Whitewater scandal began to flood the daily news and, although the death of White House aide Vincent Foster did comprise one section of the essay, the Mena story seemed the most substantial. (By March even *CBS News* could no longer resist and did a two-part broadcast on Mena, albeit depriving the story of important details.)

If a similar rigor had been applied to the earlier article by Charles Freund mentioned by Sylwester, the Clinton conspiracy essay may have never reached print. Freund had exaggerated comments Thomas made in the

TWO DAYS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE ESSAY, BOBBY RAY INMAN WITHDREW HIS NAME FROM CONSIDERATION AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT MADE HIM LOOK LIKE A CONSPIRACY WONK.

book reviews for the *Flatland* catalog about charges of "agent baiting" made by John Judge against Mark Lane. The resulting phone conversations and correspondence between the two resulted in Freund's recommendation of Thomas for this assignment.

Two days after the publication of the essay, Bobby Ray Inman withdrew his name from consideration as Secretary of Defense in a news conference that made him look like a conspiracy wonk. His complaints were made primarily against columnist William Safire, but some *Steamshovel* readers suggested that the Clinton conspiracy essay also may have contributed to Inman's decision to withdraw. The essay had repeated Jim Hougan's suggestion that Inman may have been Watergate's Deep Throat, reflecting a general criticism of Inman as a source for leaks. However, the essay also reported upon Inman's exchanges with ufologist Robert Oeschler in which the Admiral seemed to be acknowledging the existence of alien spacecraft and the MJ12 group of UFO lore. This report appeared and was read widely in Timothy Good's book *Alien Contact*, but readers suggested that its appearance in a Washington daily may have caused MJ12 to force Inman out! Holding out the possibility that such attention may indeed have been one more aggravation underscoring Inman's dislike for the Washington spotlight, *Steamshovel* nevertheless could find no evidence that he had mentioned the essay in his press conference or on *Larry King Live*, as some readers suggested.

The parenthetical swipes at researchers that did creep into the text included mention of the relationship of Jonathan Vankin's publisher to the Unification church and Sherman Skolnick's view of Watergate. That Vankin's book, *Conspiracies, Cover Ups and Crimes* was published by Paragon House, which is owned by Sun Myung Moon's church, has been widely discussed. This brief parenthetical nod, however, allowed no opportunity to discuss the issues of publishing compromises that surround the provenance of that book—issues that also obviously involve the publication of the Clinton conspiracy article by the *Washington Post* as well.

The *Post* asked several times about Skolnick's take on Watergate, unknown by the author but presumably having something to do with the JFK assassination/Watergate link often scoffed at by the mainstream but accepted as canon by certain segments of the research community. Hence, a non-parenthetical and marginally relevant statement that Skolnick "who has been prominent in conspiratorial circles since Watergate" (Skolnick's work actually pre-dates Watergate) appeared in the article. The article reported

ISKOFF RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE REPORT ON INSLAW ISSUED BY JUDGE NICHOLAS BUA LAST MARCH STATING THAT DANNY CASOLARO HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE AND THAT NO WRONG DOING WAS EVIDENT IN THE INSLAW AFFAIR.

Skolnick's view that Vince Foster had been killed by a team of German hit men to prevent him from having Bill Clinton stop an assassination attempt against Saddam Hussein. Details about the plot against Saddam Hussein were supported by news reports in the Chicago Tribune faxed by *Steamshovel* to the Washington Post.

The last significant change made by the Washington Post underscored the differences between the pre- and post-published versions of the article. After the article concluded that "if indeed Clinton is as immersed in these plots, counterplots and various intrigues as some of the researchers suggest, the need for the kind of moral certitude he ascribed to Carroll Quigley seems obvious", the Post chose to end the article with its own invention, "The president will also be hard pressed to find time for reforming health care, never mind NATO", a glib observation for what the newspaper viewed as a frivolous piece. An important point was lost from the original article, which nevertheless emphasized an ironic relationship between the material it examined and the view held by Clinton that Quigley was a paragon of morality: "Like the research, however, its litmus test will be the degree to which that certitude is real or the imaginative projection of those who put it forward."

One last exchange with the Post provided some measure of how the publication of "Clinton Era Conspiracies" might affect the Post's future reporting of similar types of research. After the Whitewater scandal erupted, several interesting connections between it and the Inslaw case became apparent. These were communicated to the Washington Post when Mike Isikoff, a reporter who pursuing the "conspiracy" angle on the Foster suicide, called. *Steamshovel* faxed articles to Isikoff showing that Webster L. Hubbell, the White House counsel and associate attorney general who resigned under one of the Whitewater waves, had been recently assigned to re-open the Inslaw investigation. The articles also reflected that Park-On-Meter, the parking meter company central to the allegations leading to Hubbell's resignation, had curious contracts with the Pentagon to develop more than just parking meters (it built MX missile cones for one) and that information about the company had surfaced with allegations made in part by the notorious informant of Danny Casolaro's Inslaw investigation, Michael Riconosciuto, regarding the Mena airstrip. Isikoff responded that he had been satisfied with the report on Inslaw issued by Judge Nicholas Bua last March stating that Danny Casolaro had committed suicide and that no wrong doing was evident in the Inslaw affair. *Steamshovel* had faxed its report from SP9 that Judge Bua made a twenty-five

million dollar out-of-court settlement offer to Inslaw attorney Elliot Richardson (who rejected it) before issuing the report and that Bua's report failed to do even simple things like a code check of the Promis program. Nevertheless, Isikoff remained convinced by Judge Bua and found no merit in pursuing the Inslaw/Whitewater connection and instead wrote a piece emphasizing Sherman Skolnick's theory on Vince Foster. Isikoff did brush against the Inslaw/Whitewater link by reporting that one of the last phone calls received by Foster was from Brantley Buck, the Rose law firm partner responsible for looking into its troubles with Webster Hubbell.)

"One excellent historical lesson [learned from the JFK assassination researchers]," Mike Sylwester wrote to the Washington Times last November, "has been the ability of independent but informed citizens to defeat government and media elites who try to impose an Official Truth by pretending infallibility and by ignoring, mischaracterizing and hooting down dissenters." Certainly this process was evident in *Steamshovel's* relations with the Washington Post, but *Steamshovel* takes some credit—and gives credit as well to the editorial department on the Post's Outlook section—for minimizing it in this instance.

In All Directions

We's all cuzzins! Federal approval of the bovine growth hormone in milk was passed with the participation of FDA officials who also held interests in Monsanto Company, the hormone's producer; and a campaign promise to shut down Waste Technology Inc.'s toxic waste incinerator in East Liverpool, Ohio (the world's largest) was ignored because of campaign contributions by Arkansas investment firm Stephens, Inc., one of four original investors in the incinerator...Isn't that what happened to RFK? The murder of Mexican presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio must have set a speed record. He was assassinated before he was actually president. The Mexican government first characterized the assassin, Mario Aburto Martinez, as a lone gunman, then conceded that at least six other people blocked and distracted Colosio's bodyguards, and then backed away from any notion of conspiracy...Of course, he couldn't see anything from the floorboard. Tapes released by the LBJ Library in Austin demonstrated that Johnson didn't believe the magic bullet theory either. John Maher failed to bring it up during Arlen Specter's recent appearance on *Politically Incorrect*...It would happen if Spike Lee teamed up with Oliver Stone. At the end of last year a lawyer named Wayne Chastain sought to present new evidence on the Martin Luther King case but was refused a hearing by a grand jury in Memphis. This followed a confession published by the London Observer of a US businessman claiming to have hired the murderer. James Earl Ray lost his bid for parole on May 26, despite pleas from two former MLK associates...A Moose of a man. Still no trace in Alaska, or anywhere, of

Joe Vogler, the malcontent, anti-environmentalist and founder (in 1973) of the secessionist Alaskan Independence Party. It looks like murder and conspiracy... *Garbologists on the run*. One of the deals considered by the San Francisco district attorney's office over the ADL spy scandal prevented it from receiving confidential information from police sources but didn't stop any of its other "fact-finding" activities... *Garbologist on the run II*. A Long Island judge subpoenaed Yoko Ono to testify against Frederic Seaman, a former assistant to John Lennon, in a suit brought by one of the bodyguards that Seaman alleges beat him up after the Ono camp discovered his theft of a Lennon diary used as the basis of his book, *The Last Days of John Lennon* (reviewed in *Steamshovel Press* #4)... *Better safe than sorry*. The Justice Department requested that files relating to the botched raid and unnecessary deaths at the Branch Davidian compound be exempted from the Freedom of Information Act for the sake of national security... *What'd I say?* The National Reconnaissance Office launched a \$1.5 billion-plus satellite in April but did not give its name, mission or exact cost to the taxpayers footing the bill. "Spy satellites are enormously expensive," says the *New York Times*, "in part because they are technologically exquisite devices capable of plucking a single conversation from the babble of telecommunications, and in part because the secrecy that surrounds their existence adds significantly to the cost of building them"... *Anything you want, we just don't want to see him naked*. Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali, the alleged World Trade Center bombing villain who just happened to be under FBI surveillance prior to the bombing, planned to kidnap Henry Kissinger, strip him because he might have been wearing electronic eavesdropping devices, and offer him in trade for the freedom with those charged in the blast... *You won't see it on X-Files*. The White Sands Defense Committee is fighting to prevent further government takeover of land at the infamous UFO sight Area 51. The government can only take 4000 acres at a time without running into Congressional oversight. It has now set its sight on one critical hill, White Sides, one of the last places where visitors can still look on the Groom Lake facility, supposed home of the alien spacecraft and genetic labs. Contact the White Sides Defense Committee, POB 448, Alamo, NV 89001. *For real, now, what's really going on with this?* The fumes that overcame emergency workers at Riverside General Hospital after the death of cancer patient Gloria Ramirez still have no official explanation, only rumors that the 31 year old woman belonged to an abductee or ritual-abuse survivors support group... *Liddy lifts the lid on Foster*. G. Gordon Liddy led the FBI to the "man in the white van" who originally found Vincent Foster's body (the National Parks maintenance worker who claimed to have seen the man in the van later recanted). The witness says Foster had no gun and Liddy is convinced of his veracity. In St. Louis recently to promote his radio show, Liddy also claimed that his program provided a needed counterbalance to the liberal media. The radio station boasted

AN AIRPORT COP IN AUSTIN NOW SHARES A DISTINCTION WITH LIDDY BY ARRESTING DR. LEARY FOR AN ASSOCIATION WITH NON-CRIMINAL PLANT LIFE. ON MAY 10 LEARY WAS ARRESTED FOR LIGHTING AND NOT QUITE SMOKING A TOBACCO CIGARETTE IN PROTEST AGAINST THE LACK OF A SMOKING AREA AT THE AIRPORT.

that it brought in Liddy's program in as competition for Rush Limbaugh, who appears on a rival station. Liddy once busted Timothy Leary for possession of peat moss... *It's Rodney King all over again*. An airport cop in Austin now shares a distinction with Liddy by arresting Dr. Leary for an association with non-criminal plant life. On May 10 Leary was arrested for lighting and not quite smoking a tobacco cigarette in protest against the lack of a smoking area at the airport. He later explained to Greg Kinnear on NBC's *Later* that as a smoker he pays heavy taxes and airports are tax supported facilities. Leary also brought video of the bust showing the cop snatching the cigarette before he could inhale. Leary will pay as much as \$500 in fines for this act of social protest (in typically 1960ish-styled show of solidarity, Allen Ginsberg went on the Conan O'Brien show and did "Don't Smoke"... *It means "Editor's Note"*. The *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* includes this quote from Jack Kerouac in its definition of debris: "The whole library groaned with the accumulated debris of centuries of recorded folly."

THE HITS JUST KEEP ON COMIN'

(News that happened while the current issue waited out its production delays.) *Shut down with an endorsement by the FDA*. The psychedelic-mimicking relaxation devices that look like a cross between a Sony Walkman and a pair of Foster Grants have been busted by the Food and Drug Administration. Production of the light and sound devices by Synetic Systems of Seattle has been shut down and its inventory confiscated, although other manufacturers still exist and the device is still being sold. Synetic had altered its descriptive literature for the machines several months prior to the FDA seizure to avoid the appearance that it made medical claims for the device. (Readers should recall that the characterizing of Wilhelm Reich's books as labeling for orgone devices by the FDA is what led to them being burned.) The FDA proceeded with its raid against Synetic despite its approval of the wording changes. FDA compliance officer Daryl Thompson stated that it is against the law to market devices "that affect the structure or function of man", certainly a larger claim than has ever been made by the device's manufacturers. The best version of the spinning-lights and synchronized sound machines tested by *Steamshovel* is the Voyager XL, available from Theta Technologies, POB 130, Fall City WA 98024. It includes a program written by

Thomas A. Budzynski, an aerospace engineer and psychology PhD who at one time served as crew chief of the inertial navigation team of the SR-71 Blackbird, which was developed at Area 51. (Last June the Senate Armed Services Committee approved \$263 billion worth of defense authorization, including money that takes the SR-71 out of mothballs for service in spying on North Korea's nuclear program.) *Simpson Twists of Fate*: One week after the Buffalo News printed a recap of O.J. Simpson's connections to former Buffalo bar owner Casimer J. "Casey" Sucharski, he and two women were found murdered at Sucharski's home in Miramar, Florida. In April 1975 Sucharski was arrested on drugs and guns charges at the home of Michael Militello, another Buffalo bar owner. Militello and Simpson were subjects of police investigation for cocaine but charges were never brought against either of the prominent, well-connected citizens of Buffalo. Militello paid a visit to Simpson in jail on July 17.

Adventures of Robert Morrow:

NBC interrupted its Simpson coverage to report an assassination attempt against the PLO chairman. Israeli radio had reported that shots were fired from a gun disguised as a camera—a scenario identical to author Robert Morrow's take on the RFK assassination. The

Globe tabloid lost a considerable sum when it repeated the tale from Morrow's book, *The Senator Must Die*, that Robert Kennedy was shot by a gun disguised as a camera wielded by a Mossad agent named Khawar. Khawar sued and won \$3 million. Meanwhile, last November Morrow announced that he had the financial backing to build a \$90 million sports arena in Cincinnati for a National Hockey League team. The money, the arena and the team never materialized. *Soccer Star Killed by Group of Lone Nuts*: After "accidentally" kicking an own-goal that lost the pivotal game for the highly-rated Columbian team during World Cup soccer, Andres Escobar was shot to death by a group characterized in the media as disgruntled fans of the sport. The Columbian loss allowed the U.S. team to play against Brazil on July 4. Henry Kissinger was one of the prominent sponsors of World Cup Soccer in the US. (*Steamshovel Debris*: G. J. Krupey reports that the LaRouche newspaper ran a headline: "Kissinger Imports International Terrorists Disguised As Soccer Hooligans To Spread Disorder in the US." No word on whether or not he bet on Brazil, which won the July 4 game.) *Add to the Clinton Body Count*: The police informer who testified against the son of Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders during his trial for selling cocaine was found dead of an apparent suicide in July. Police do not suspect foul play (as ever) in the death of Calvin R. Walraven, who admitted helping police entrap Elders' son in a cocaine deal.

PROJECT SEEK *Onassis, Kennedy and the Gemstone Thesis*

by Gerald A. Carroll

Project Seek [1994, America West Publishers, P.O. Box 3300, Bozeman, Montana 59772, \$16.95 + \$2.50 s+h] does an outstanding job of researching and documenting the starkly compressed statements I made in the 22-page *Skeleton Key to the Gemstone File*, which I released, samizdat-style, in 1975. Its 388 pages are packed solid with new information, relevant original interviews, footnoted sources, and rational analysis. It clearly documents, supports and expands upon perhaps 80% of the original Gemstone Key material. In fact, it is just the book I have been hoping someone would do, some day. It has fulfilled its stated aim: a "determination to find out exactly how truthful Gemstone File author Bruce Roberts actually was."

What I particularly like about this book is that it does not, like Jim Keith's pastiche called *The Gemstone*

File, perch on a lofty editorial peak of opinionated ignorance and take potshots at source material that neither Keith nor his "researchers" have bothered either to try to understand or study in detail, either to substantiate or deny.

Carroll brings to his subject 20 years of experience as a newspaper reporter, columnist and editor with Gannett, Copley, Thomson, Hearst and

McNaughton companies, including 10 years at the Hearst-owned *San Francisco Examiner*.

He has used his skills to ferret out additional biographical information about the elusive Bruce Roberts, and has even unearthed a 1952 photograph of Bruce Roberts draping a gemstone headdress on Carmen Mirandal. The photo section alone is a gem, and Carroll's written text provides a rational, well-written and easily understandable exposition of the Gemstone Skeleton Key's unavoidably staccato style.

Carroll's interviewees include: Donald Neuhaus, who worked for "Hughes" guarding Jean Peters in her bungalow at the Beverly Hills Hotel during the summer of 1957; Dr. Theodore Maiman, developer of laser-beam research for Hughes Tool, who may have used some of Bruce Roberts' artificial rubies in his work in 1959; and Randy Strom, son of Al Strom, the bartender at the Drift Inn in San Francisco.

The last chapter, *Shiny New Gemstones*, provides a bridge from the Skeleton Key's final paragraphs, written in June, 1975, to today's events.

In its strict adherence to investigating the Skeleton Key's "Gemstone" statements in detail, the book adheres more closely to the original spirit of Gemstone, which was and will always remain a dogged search for the truth, than Jim Keith's version.

I think the lunacy of Keith's attempt to be top dog in the Gemstone manger trembles to the surface as, in his review, he refers to my "rant" at the Phenomicon Convention, which certainly did turn out to be dueling microphones! Too bad, Jim! I wrote the Skeleton Key, and you didn't! I understand it, and you don't.

—Stephanie Caruana

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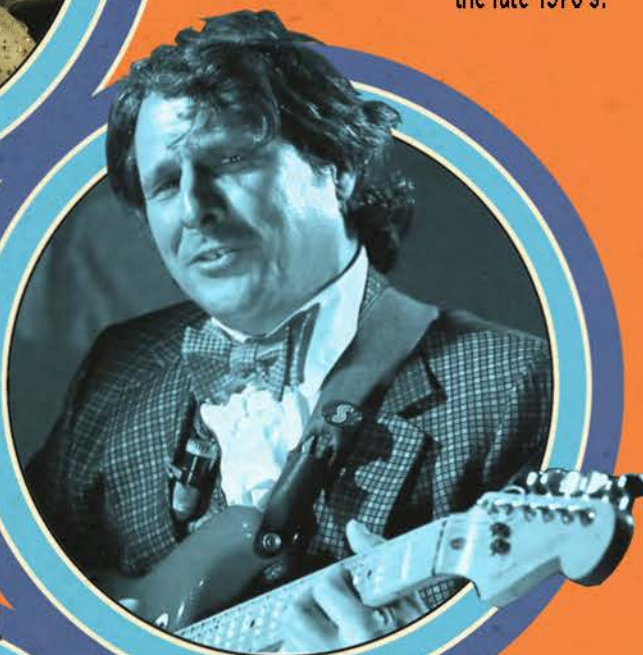


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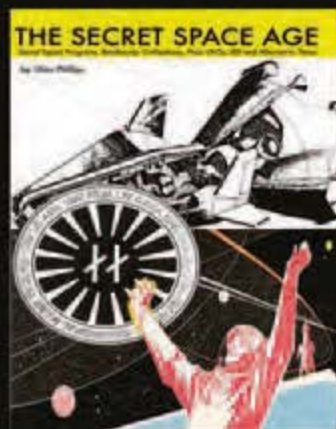
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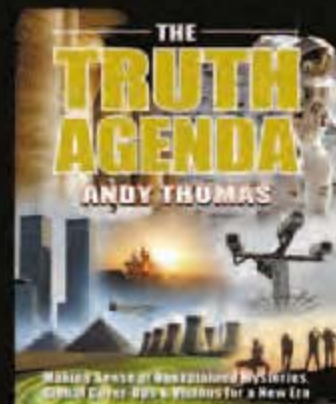


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